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## Turkish warplanes attack Kurds in northern Iraq

ANKARA (AFP) — Turkish warplanes Monday and Tuesday bombed Turkish Kurd separatist positions in northern Iraq, the Anatolia news agency reported. The air raids targeted fighters of the outlawed Kurdish Labour Party, or PKK, according to Anatolia. The separatists took refuge in mountains in an area where the borders of Iraq, Turkey and Iran converge, the agency added. More than 10,000 Turkish troops moved into Iraqi territory at the end of last month in an operation to wipe out what Ankara says are PKK bases used to launch attacks across the border in Turkey. Turkish officials Friday put the PKK death toll in the past 11 days of fighting at 415. Turkish losses have not been disclosed. The PKK has been fighting the Ankara government for an independent Kurdish state in Turkey's southeast since 1984.

## U.N. convoy attacked in northern Iraq

BAGHDAD (AFP) — A U.N. convoy of vehicles came under fire Monday in Kurdish-held northern Iraq but there were no casualties, a U.N. spokesman announced here Tuesday. Eric Falt, spokesman for the coordinator of U.N. humanitarian operations in Iraq, said around 50 shots were fired at the convoy of five cars. One of the bullets hit a car. The attack on the convoy of vehicles belonging to U.N. guards and the World Food Programme took place near the village of Cheladizi, some 30 kilometres from the Turkish border, Mr. Falt told Agence France Presse. It was the second attack on the U.N. in Iraq in three days, after a grenade attack in Baghdad Saturday on a U.N. office. Kurdish groups have controlled northern Iraq in defiance of Baghdad since the aftermath of the 1991 Gulf war.

# Israelis, Palestinians negotiate economic issues, safe passages

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Israelis and Palestinians wrangled over implementation of long-stalled interim peace agreements Tuesday under the watchful eye of U.S. mediators who brought the two sides together for their first detailed negotiations in seven months.

A day after U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross met with Israeli and Palestinian leaders to kick off a resumption of the peace talks, two negotiating committees were meeting to discuss economic issues and the creation of "safe passage" corridors between Palestinian National Authority (PNA) ruled areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Mr. Ross was to meet separately again Tuesday with Israeli Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat to further the latest U.S. initiative to rescue the peace process from months of crisis caused by Jewish settlement building and Islamist bombings.

But Palestinian officials insisted the real work in reviving the peace process would come in Washington, where Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Mr. Arafat's number two Mahmoud Abbas are scheduled to meet with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright on Oct. 13.

"It is in Washington that we will address the core issues, Israel's settlement construction and its failure to implement troop withdrawals in the West Bank," said Palestinian negotiator Hassan Asfour.

"These are the issues which caused the crisis in the peace process. So the restarting of the committees is not a solution to the basic crisis," he told Agence France Presse.

In an initial stage of the renewed talks, eight committees are to work out implementation of Israeli commitments left undone from a 1995 interim autonomy agreement signed by Mr. Arafat and Israel's previous Labour government.

Saeb Erakat, the chief Palestinian negotiator, said U.S. officials would sit in on the committees' work, but he refused to speculate about results from the negotiations.

"I would not hazard to say anything in the world about that. These are all issues that we signed accords on long ago. What it takes is the political will in Israel to actually implement them," he said.

In Monday's meeting, the Palestinians proposed a time limit of three months for the committees to produce results, but the proposal was deferred to the Washington talks.

The eight committees deal in particular with winning Israeli approval for the opening of air and seaports in the Gaza Strip, the creation of safe passages and the release of Palestinian prisoners.

Every two weeks the commissions will report to a joint committee headed by Mr. Erakat and Mr. Netanyahu's top aide Danny Naveh to deal with "points of difference" and Mr. Levy and Mr. Abbas will meet every month to review the committees' work.

The economic committee will also address Israeli economic sanctions imposed on the Palestinians, particularly Israel's long closure of the territories and its withholding of millions of dollars in tax funds from the cash-strapped PNA.

Israel froze the funds and suspended implementation of the interim accords after a pair of bombings in Jerusalem in July and September.

But Mr. Erakat said there would be "no progress" unless Israel calls a halt to settlement building and goes ahead with a promised three-stage troop redeployment from rural areas of the West Bank.

In the Washington talks, Israel reportedly will propose a nine-month freeze on settlement construction — except building "contiguous" to existing settlements — but only on condition that the scheduled troop withdrawals also be suspended until the conclusion of negotiations on a permanent peace accord.

The Palestinians have rejected the proposal, which was reported in the Israeli daily Haaretz.

Israel, in turn, has demanded President Arafat step up his fight against Hamas.

But that issue has been complicated by Mr. Netanyahu's release from an Israeli prison last week of Hamas' spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin in a swap for two Israeli agents arrested trying to kill a Hamas leader in Jordan.

The PNA said Sheikh Yassin's release by Israel made it virtually impossible for the Palestinians to pursue a crackdown against Hamas.

An Israeli army doctor gives a blindfolded Palestinian prisoner a medical checkup before the man's release Monday. Twenty Palestinian and Jordanian prisoners were released by Israel (Reuters photo)

## King wishes Mubarak, Assad well on anniversary of October War

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday called the presidents of Egypt and Syria, Hosni Mubarak and Hafez Assad and conveyed to them his best wishes on the 26th anniversary of the October War of 1973. Meanwhile, the King received cables of appreciation and gratitude for his efforts towards the release of Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmad Yassin from an Israeli prison along with Jordanian and Palestinian detainees. Among those sending cables was Mohammad Sayed Tantawi, Sheikh of Al Azhar Al Sharif in Egypt.

## Yemen, Saudi Arabia add 'final touches' to border accord

DUBAI (AFP) — Yemen and Saudi Arabia are adding the "final touches" to a settlement on their decades-old border dispute, President Ali Abdullah Saleh said Tuesday. Mr. Saleh told the London-based Arabic newspaper Al Hayat that he had a "positive" meeting in Rome last month with the Saudi defence minister, Prince Sultan Ben Abdul Aziz. Yemeni-Saudi negotiations to demarcate the border are going well and "we are currently applying the final touches to a just and equitable accord," he said. A stumbling-block is Yemen's insistence that a border deal also include a range of cooperation accords, including economic, while Saudi Arabia wants it solely on the territorial dispute, according to Yemeni papers.

## Turkish students protest Islamic headscarf ban

ISTANBUL (R) — Around 300 Turkish female students staged a sit-down demonstration Tuesday in protest at university authorities' refusal to register them because they wore Islamic headscarves. "We will protect our honour," read a banner held by headscarved students sitting at the gates of Istanbul University. "We are victims. Our headscarves are our belief, honour and our identity. This ban is against our right to education and human rights," said protester Sehma Dovucu. The students said they would protest every day until the ban was lifted. Some of the university faculties have refused to register hundreds of female students who handed in university identity cards with photographs of themselves wearing Islamic headscarves.

## Palestinian embassy reopened in Malta

VALLETTA (R) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) has reopened its embassy in Malta, two years after it was closed following an incident in which staff locked the ambassador inside and demanded her resignation. It is not clear why the previous ambassador was ousted. The PNA is now being represented on the island by resident Ambassador Jawad Judith Mahmoud Dweik, who presented his credentials in June.

# Yassin sets conditions for halt to bombings

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The spiritual leader of Hamas offered Tuesday to stop attacks against Israeli civilians if Israel stops "aggression against Palestinians" such as house demolitions and land confiscations.

But Sheikh Ahmad Yassin said Hamas would not stop other sorts of attacks until Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands ends.

"I have offered in the past to Israel that both sides stop their attacks on civilians. This is our proposal," Sheikh Yassin told journalists at his home a day after he returned to Gaza following more than eight years in Israeli prisons.

"If Israel stops its attacks on Palestinian civilians, we will stop ours against [Israeli] civilians. I am speaking about our martyr attacks, the ones they call suicide attacks," he said.

"We do not like attacking civilians, our religion frowns on it. But you [the Israelis] are attacking our civilians. You are destroying houses, taking lands, dispersing people, killing women and children and prisoners," he said.

Violently opposed to peace accords with Israel, Hamas has led a campaign of bombings against Israelis since 1994, killing scores of people.

Its most recent attacks were two multiple suicide bombings in Jerusalem which killed 21 Israelis on July 30 and Sept. 4.

In his statement Tuesday Sheikh Yassin said Hamas would not stop armed actions against Israel other than attacks on civilians unless "the occupation ends."

"We started resistance because of the occupation. If Israel is prepared to withdraw from the occupied lands and stop all its aggressions against our people, then we can make a truce," he said.

"They must leave the land for Palestinians. But if they take half the land or three quarters of it and build settlements and kill people, that is not correct. The truce can only come if Israel abides by its side," he said.

Israel's right-wing prime minister, Benyamin Netanyahu, this week ruled out any negotiations with Hamas, which he said is committed to destroying Israel.

But a senior figure in his coalition government, Arieh Deri of the religious party Shas, called Tuesday for a dialogue with Hamas "on condition they sheath their swords and renounce terrorism," (see story on page 12).

The sheikh, who is paralysed and partially blind and deaf, underwent five days of medical treatment in Amman at the King Hussein Medical Centre before returning to a hero's welcome in Gaza City Monday.

Sheikh Yassin continued Tuesday to welcome well-wishers at his home in Gaza City's impoverished Sabra district.

Supporters were expected to continue their visits to him throughout the day.

# Mutawi says Israel now committed not to violate treaty signed with Jordan

By Tareq Ayyoub
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — Minister of State for Information Affairs Samir Mutawi Tuesday said a recent Israeli Mossad attempt to assassinate a Hamas leader in Amman caused a strain in relations between Jordan and Israel.

Speaking to reporters following a regular Cabinet session, Dr. Mutawi emphasised that the two countries managed to overcome the impasse.

"We must admit that the strain has taken place in the relations, but I think it was handled diplomatically and now we have a commitment from Israel not to violate the articles of the peace treaty," the minister said.

Dr. Mutawi comments came 24 hours after the release of two Israeli agents implicated in the assassination attempt against the Hamas politburo chief, Khaled Misha'al, on Sept. 24.

Jordan and Israel agreed to swap the two Israeli agents for Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the founder of the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, and tens of Jordanian and Palestinian prisoners.

He said that the release of the detainees came following an "extensive diplomatic efforts where Jordan informed all concerned parties on the details of its efforts."

"Concerned parties must have been aware of all efforts that Jordan exercised to ensure the release of these detainees," Dr. Mutawi said. He declined to name these parties.

The minister said that Sheikh Yassin was "aware" of the government's efforts to seek the release of Palestinian prisoners.

"I think that Sheikh Yassin had information on the release of a large number of Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails," he said.

"Sheikh Yassin was hosted by His Majesty King Hussein to be treated at the King Hussein Medical Centre. He was informed on the details of what was happening," Dr. Mutawi said.

Hamas leaders in Jordan repeatedly denied that they were involved in the deal to exchange Sheikh Yassin and prisoners in Israeli jails with the Mossad agents detained in Jordan for their role in the attempt on Khaled Misha'al's life.

The minister said that Israel has agreed to release all Jordanian prisoners and rejected the news reports that Israel will not release Jordanians involved in the killing of Israelis.

Meanwhile, Hamas expressed its dismay over the government's decision to release the two Israeli agents involved in the attack against Mr. Misha'al.

"At the time we offer our gratitude to His Majesty and the honourable government for their role in treating our brother Khaled Misha'al... at the time when our hopes were high that Mossad agents will be tried, we felt surprised that they were handed over to the Zionist enemy," the Hamas statement said.

The government has "belittled Zionist terrorism which would encourage [Israel] to repeat its attempts to infringe on the sovereignty and security of Jordan," the one-page statement said.

"The attempt to justify the deal by saying that there was no proof... means giving indirect clearance to the Israeli Mossad, at the moment when its involvement is visible to everybody," the statement added.

On Monday, Minister of Interior Nathir Rashid told the Jordan Times that the two agents will be declared innocent if tried in Jordan because there was no proof that they were physically involved in the attack.

# Netanyahu under fire for staging false probe of assassination fiasco

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The Israeli opposition assailed Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu Tuesday for refusing to order a state enquiry into the fiasco caused by his decision to try to murder a Hamas leader in Jordan.

The prime minister, who is directly responsible for the Mossad spy agency which botched the Sept. 25 assassination attempt against Khaled Misha'al in Amman, rejected calls he resign over the affair.

On Monday Mr. Netanyahu agreed only to name a "clarification committee" to examine the decisions which led up to the Mr. Misha'al assassination attempt and the consequences of its failure, including the capture by Jordan of two Mossad agents.

To obtain the return of the Mossad agents and avert a full break in relations with Jordan, Mr. Netanyahu was forced to agree to release Hamas spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin and dozens of Jordanians and Palestinians from prison in total contradiction to his hardline policy towards "terrorism."

Mr. Netanyahu rebuffed calls for a formal state enquiry into the affair which could have held the prime minister directly responsible and pressed for his resignation.

Political commentators described Mr. Netanyahu's response as a "half measure" which would nevertheless likely spare him fatal political damage at home. Mr. Netanyahu created a similar probe panel last year as a way out of a major scandal provoked by his short-lived appointment of a crony as attorney-general.

But analysts said the longer-term damage, notably to Mr. Netanyahu's already frayed credentials as an honest seeker of peace with the Arabs, remain to be seen.

In any case, Mr. Netanyahu was defiant in the face of criticism over his actions.

"There is no reason for the prime minister to resign because he is simply fighting mercilessly against terrorism," declared Tuesday Danny Naveh, the cabinet secretary and Mr. Netanyahu's closest advisor.

But opposition politicians and the Israeli press were scathing in their dismissal of the three-member commission named by Mr. Netanyahu to look into the affair comprising a former director of Mossad, an ex-police chief and a former legal advisor to the defence ministry.

Yossi Sarid of the leftist Meretz Party noted that two of the panel members lead companies controlled by the government and the third works for a personal friend of Mr. Netanyahu.

Israel Radio also noted that the former Mossad chief, Nahum Admoni, publicly justified the attempted murder of Hamas politburo chief Misha'al even before it was acknowledged by the government and thus could hardly be considered objective.

The Labour Party called for a full state enquiry "carried out by independent figures who will be immune to government pressure.

"The prime minister should have resigned long ago," said Labour leader Ehud Barak.

Two such state enquiries have been carried out in Israel, one on military errors during the 1973 Yom Kippur war and the other concerning the massacre of Palestinians in the Sabra and Shatila refugee camps in Israeli-occupied Beirut in 1982.

## Qatar sends out invitations to MENA conference

DOHA (AFP) — Qatar was sending out invitations on Tuesday to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic conference that has drawn protests from Arab states, the minister of state for foreign affairs said.

"The invitations will have been sent by this evening," for the November 16-18 conference to which Israel is being invited, Ahmad Ben Abdallah Al Mahmoud told Agence France Presse.

The invitations have been addressed to foreign ministers of MENA countries as well as their main economic partners in Europe, the U.S. and Asia.

Almost 80 countries have been invited, said Mr. Mahmoud, and South American states have also expressed an interest in attending the forum.

Qatar expects some 2,500 foreign participants, among them around 800 government delegates, 800 businessmen, 300 representatives of international or regional organisations, and 500 journalists.

# U.N. arms report raps Iraq for concealing biological arms data

Combined agency dispatches

SIX YEARS after U.N. arms experts began hunting down Iraq's weapons of mass destruction, their chief Monday urged the Security Council to insist that Baghdad cooperate with his inspection teams.

Australian Richard Butler, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) in charge of ridding Iraq of weapons of mass destruction, particularly pointed to concealment of biological weapons programmes in his first major report since he took over his post in July from Rolf Ekeus of Sweden.

He said progress was made on ballistic missiles and chemical weapons programmes but that Iraq failed to "give a remotely credible account" on biological arms.

Although he said most inspections went smoothly, he gave the Security Council enough ammunition to impose more sanctions on Baghdad as it had threatened.

But diplomats said it was doubtful the increasingly divided 15-member body would do so this month.

Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz said Tuesday U.N. trade sanctions on Iraq were kept in place to halt Baghdad's quest for technological progress.

Mr. Aziz, speaking at a seminar organised in Baghdad to review Iraq's post-Gulf war reconstruction, said annihilation of Iraqi weapons was not the reason behind maintaining the sanctions on Iraq.

"The delay in lifting the embargo is not because we have not carried out the requirements of paragraph C of [U.N.] Resolution 687 but to block the process of continuing revival which was preceded by reconstruction and subsequent technical achievements," Mr. Aziz said.

Mr. Aziz blamed weapons inspectors of using delay tactics to preserve the stringent regime of sanctions against his country.

Mr. Aziz said those persisting in keeping sanctions on Iraq intact feared that their lifting "would improve the living standards of the [Iraqi] people and boost or make it easier for Iraq to acquire technical capabilities to continue the process of revival."

The council in June, after negotiations between U.S. President Bill Clinton and President Boris Yeltsin of Russia, expressed its "firm intention to impose additional measures" on Iraqi officials responsible for barring U.N. inspectors from sensitive sites.

These could include a travel ban against officials, such as Deputy Prime Minister Aziz, mentioned several times in the report as blocking access to information.

# At least 13 Algerian villagers slain; army kills 11 extremists

## *Opposition leader pleads for world concern*

ALGIERS (Agencies) — At least 13 more villagers have been massacred south of Algiers, while the security forces killed 11 members of the radical Armed Islamic Group (GIA), press reports said Tuesday.

The villagers were slain overnight Sunday at Douar Zekmouta near Medea, 50 kilometres from the Algerian capital, the El Khabar and Liberte newspapers said, putting the toll at 13.

Another daily, Le Matin, put the number of dead at 16.

Such attacks are routinely blamed on armed Islamic radical groups.

On Monday morning, Algerian troops waging a major offensive against a GIA stronghold in the Ouled Allel region south of Algiers killed 11 fundamentalists as they tried to escape a siege laid in recent days by security forces backed up by armoured vehicles and helicopters.

The local press, allowed for the first time to follow military operations against Islamic groups who have been at war with Algeria's secular regime since 1992, on Tuesday published reports on the campaign, with photographs.

However, no official confirmation was forthcoming of the massacre at Douar Zekmouta, which brought to more than 160 the number of civilians reported to have been slaughtered by fundamentalists since last Thursday.

President Liamine Zeroual's government is out to crush the radical Muslim fighters, who have recently stepped up violence against isolated civilian settlements in a terrorist campaign, notably in the so-called "triangle of death" in the farming plains south of the capital.

The insurrection, estimated to have claimed at least 60,000 lives, began after the January 1992 cancellation of the second round of general elections the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

Last month the combatant wing of the now outlawed FIS, the Islamic Salvation Army (AIS), called for a truce in exchange from measures by the state to reach what the AIS called "a legitimate and just solution" to the conflict.

The hardline GIA is opposed to any dealing or talks with the regime.

In London, meanwhile, a veteran Algerian opposition leader appealed to the international community to put pressure on his country's rulers over human rights and push for political dialogue.

Hocine Ait Ahmad, founder of the Socialist Forces Front (FFS), told Britain's Royal Institute for International Affairs that only an international outcry could prevent Algeria from sliding deeper into despair.

In a speech in London on Monday night, he urged the United Nations to open an office in the North African country to monitor the violence, despite fierce opposition by the army-dominated government.

"The silence and indifference of the Western powers and public opinion have put my country on a very slippery slope towards an all-out slaughter, likely to assume rapidly the dimensions of genocide," he said.

Mr. Ait Ahmad, who lives in Switzerland, said more than 120,000 civilians had been killed since the army intervened in 1992 to halt an election in which FIS had taken a commanding lead.

That is twice the death toll generally estimated by Western governments.

He praised U.N. Secretary-General Koffi Annan's recent call for dialogue to overcome the violence and said the world should not be intimidated into silence by "fascist-like threats" from the Algerian authorities.

Mr. Ait Ahmad, one of the historic leaders of the struggle for independence from French colonial rule, said the scale of the massacres made them crimes against humanity and thus a legitimate subject for international action.

He stressed he was not seeking outside military intervention but political pressure to bring all sides in Algeria to the negotiating table, as had happened in South Africa and between Israelis and Palestinians.

The Algerian authorities have blamed the killing on Muslim "terrorists," but opposition sources have suggested some of the massacres may be the result of factional fighting between rival security services.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmad Attaf Monday angrily rejected what he called French attempts to encourage foreign countries to interfere in Algeria's internal affairs.

French President Jacques Chirac said last Friday that Italy had offered to try to bring peace to Algeria after six years of strife, adding that Rome might have more success than Paris in tackling the problem.

**WAITING FOR YASSIN:** A Palestinian boy sits in a sea of empty chairs as he waits for Hamas' spiritual leader Sheikh Ahmad Yassin's arrival at a rally in Gaza Tuesday (AFP photo)

# JRDP holds workshop on seasonal abuse

By Hind-Lara Mango,
*Special to the Jordan Times*

AMMAN — In order to address the issue of child abuse and neglect and to establish an effective mechanism to deal with these problems, the Jordan River for Development Projects (JRDP) organized a two-day workshop on Tuesday to stimulate coordinated action.

Trainers Angela Hawtin and Dominic Wyse from the Liverpool John Moores University in England, both professionals in child abuse, discussed with participants individual case management and means of building an effective child protection system.

Professionals and agency representatives dealing with child abuse in the Kingdom were brought together under a similar workshop in April by the JRDP form a Child Protection Unit (CPU).

Through this follow-up workshop, sponsored by the British Council in Amman, the "CPU is trying to come up with a foundation for a better child protection system in collaboration with all concerned agencies," said Lina Husseini, Head of the Child Abuse Project (CAP), to the Jordan Times.

She explained that this workshop would help the CPU in formulating clear procedures for child abuse cases "without losing precious time going through the long bureaucratic system."

Once the CPU knows of a child abuse case, it convenes a "case conference" where, Ms. Husseini said, professionals in the field draw a specific action plan. Children are interrogated and tested by various agencies working with the CPU to find out the form of abuse being committed and to identify the abuser.

Ms. Husseini recounted a major breakthrough for the CAP when three months ago a father appealed in the local media for help in dealing with the sexual abuse of his three sons. The father claimed that the three boys (ages three, five, and seven) were being sexually abused by their stepfather.

The CAP responded to the father's appeal for the rehabilitation of his sons whom, he said, were exhibiting behavioural problems such as aggressiveness and inappropriate sexual relations, said Ms. Husseini.

When the Ministry of Social Development responded to this case, the forensic centre at Al Bashir Hospital found no signs of sexual assault on the boys," Ms. Husseini told the Jordan Times.

She disclosed that for sexual abuse to be tested, the victim should be examined within a week of assault; otherwise evidence becomes inconclusive.

However, the CAP offered the boys psychological assistance through the help of a clinical psychologist and a social worker, she said.

Ms. Husseini said that two weeks ago the CAP's "case conference" discussed data that way compiled on this problem with professionals because certain elements in the case remained enigmatic.

"The children kept on insisting that their stepfather and mother were sexually abusing them," and Ms. Husseini noted that at this stage "our attention was drawn to the rehearsed manner and explicit sexual descriptions given by the boys," which "seemed to reflect the words of an adult rather than minors."

The CAP decided to have the boys tested again, but without issuing a prior notice this time. After testing at the forensic centre, the PCA chief disclosed that the five-year-old boy showed signs of having been sexual assaulted.

"What we found interesting was the fact that the children's mother and their stepfather had been nowhere near the boys during this time," remarked Ms. Husseini.

The "case conference" is now focusing on finding out who the abuser is through a plan of action designed by members of the CPU. A criminal investigation has commenced, and the children have been taken out of "their unsafe environment and put in the custody of the Ministry of Social Development," commented Ms. Husseini.

"You should see the children now," she enthused. "When we visited them a few days ago they were laughing and care-free."

The children are currently undergoing psychological rehabilitation at one of the ministry's centres with the CPU team in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Development.

"This is exactly what we need, " Ms. Husseini concluded. "We need the collaboration of all agencies and professionals in formulating specific plans of action for each case to fully utilize available capacities."

# Iraq smuggling, mostly of diesel oil, unabated

DUBAI (R) — Iraqi smuggling, mostly of diesel oil, continues unabated with a U.S.-led multinational patrol enforcing U.N. sanctions boarding 200 vessels in the past three months, shipping sources and a force official said Tuesday.

The force spokesman said the Multinational Interception Force (MIF) queried 300 vessels going in and out of Iraq in the past three months, boarded 200 to check on compliance with U.N. sanctions on Iraq and diverted five for violating the sanctions.

"The diversions were mostly of vessels carrying diesel oil, a total amount of 4,000 tonnes. Some were carrying tyres, electronics and vehicle parts," the spokesman told Reuters.

Gulf shippers say the smuggling of Iraqi diesel has become widespread, with local and international shipping firms eager to buy the fuel. They say the price of Iraqi diesel is $30 to $50 a tonne below the market price.

Shipping sources said an average 150,000 tonnes a month makes its way out, evading the multinational force by sailing through Iranian territorial waters to other ports in the Gulf.

"Most of the smuggled diesel is on vessels that used Iranian territorial waters to avoid inspection by the multinational forces. So the amount diverted is small compared to what goes through," one source said.

The spokesman for the multinational force — which currently has 10 vessels enforcing sanctions — said "the fact smugglers use Iranian territorial waters indicates Iranian complicity."

U.S. President Bill Clinton told Congress last month that the smuggling of diesel from the Shatt Al Arab waterway was increasing at an alarming rate and that smugglers were using Iranian waters with the complicity of the Iranian government.

# Iraq protests Iraqi opposition meeting with Blair government

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — Iraq on Tuesday protested a meeting between leading Iraqi opposition members and the British government.

In a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz accused the government of Prime Minister Tony Blair of "hostile conduct," following the meeting on September 30.

Mr. Aziz said that a statement issued in London after the meeting interfered with Iraqi internal affairs "with a view to overthrowing its national government, undermining its security and stability, encroaching on its sovereignty and destroying its national unity."

The British statement notably expressed serious concerns about the regional threat posed by the regime of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein and said that all sides agreed to "expanded future meetings."

Mr. Aziz said that Iraq "regards the British government as bearing full international responsibility for the consequences of these unlawful practices."

# PNA court refuses release of teacher jailed after corruption question

GAZA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian High Court has rejected an appeal for the release of a university professor jailed after he asked his students about corruption in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) on a test, a rights group said Tuesday.

The court decided Monday that it could not rule on the appeal by Fathi Sobh, a professor at Gaza's Islamic Al Azhar University because his case was a matter for the state security courts, the Palestinian Centre for Human Rights said.

Mr. Sobh had raised the appeal on the grounds that his arrest last July came without a proper order from the attorney general and that since then he had been imprisoned without charge, the centre said in a statement.

Officials have not said why Mr. Sobh was arrested, but the state security courts were created by PNA President Yasser Arafat to deal with "sensitive political cases with a security aspect."

Mr. Sobh was arrested after he included questions on a test for students asking them their opinions on reports of corruption in the PNA and in the administration of Al Azhar University.

The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights, a Gaza-based rights organisation, called on Palestinian and international institutions to pressure for Mr. Sobh's release.

The PNA came under unprecedented scrutiny over corruption after an internal audit which showed millions of dollars had been mismanaged by its officials and later official reports showing a direct role by some ministers in corruption.

# JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**JORDAN TELEVISION**
**Tel. 773111-19**
**PROGRAMME TWO**

**14:10**.....Jonny Quest
**14:30**.....Super Dave
**15:00** Secrets of Treasure Island
**15:30** .....Super Dave
**16:00** .....Monsters Today
**16:30** .....Border Town
**17:00** ..... French Programmes
**19:00** .....News in French
**19:30** .....News Headlines
**19:35**.....Neighbours
**20:00** .....Grace Under Fire
**20:30** .....Challenges
**21:10** .....Kung Fu 3
**22:00** .....News in English
**22:30** .....Land's End
**23:15** .....American Gothic
**23:59**.....End of T.X.

**PRAYER TIMES**

**04:12** .....Fajr
**05:29** .....(Sunrise)Duha
**11:23**.....Dhuhr
**14:43**.....'Asr
**17:17**.....Maghreb
**18:34**.....'Isha

**CHURCHES**

**St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh.** Tel. 810740
**Assemblies of God ,Church** Tel. 632785.
**St. Joseph Church** Tel. 624590
**Church of the Annunciation** Tel. 637440.
**De la Salle Church** Tel. 661757.
**Terra Sancta Church** Tel. 622366
**Anglican Church** Tel. 652826.
**Armenian Catholic Church** Tel. 771331.
**Armenian Orthodox Church** Tel. 775261.
**St. Ephraim Church** Tel. 771751.
**Amman International Church** Tel. 5516245
**Evangelical Lutheran Church** Tel. 824328.
**German-speaking Evangelical Congregation** Tel. 688404
**The Latter-Day Saints** Tel. 654932.
**Church of Nazarene** Tel. 675691.
**The Evangelical Local Church in Amman** Tel. 811295
**English-speaking Latin Catholics Parish** Tel. 614190.

**WEATHER**

*Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology*
Temperatures are expected to rise with winds easterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.

**Amman** .....13/30
**Aqaba** .....20/33
**Deserts**.....12/31
**Jordan Valley** .....19/33

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 27, Aqaba 31 Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 47 per cent.

**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS NIGHT DUTY**

**Dr. Hanna Mansour** ....758863
**Dr. Afif Shukri** .....898863
**Dr. Nidal Al Dableh** ....827195
**Dr. Sa'id Tawfiq** .....788285
**Firas pharmacy** .....661912
**Ferdows pharmacy** ...890280
**Al Asema pharmacy** .....637055
**Al Salam pharmacy** ..636730
**Yacoub pharmacy** .....644945
**Shmeisani pharmacy** 637660
**Nairoukh pharmacy** .....623672
**Najib pharmacy** .....847632
**IRBID:**
**Dr. Ahmad Qanu** .....281484
**Al Quds pharmacy** .....(—)
**ZARQA:**
**Dr. Ratib Atallah** ..... 994424
**Khalifeh pharmacy** ...985417

**EMERGENCIES**

**Food Control Centre** .637111
**Civil Defence Department** 661111
**Civil Defence Immediate Rescue** 630341
**Civil Defence Emergency**199
**Rescue Police** 192, 621111, 637777
**Fire Brigade** .....617101
**Blood Bank** .....775121
**Highway Police**.....843402
**Traffic Police** .....896390
**Public Security Department** 630321
**Hotel Complaints** .....605800
**Price Complaints**.....661176
**Water and Sewerage Complaints**.....897467
**Amman Municipality Complaints** .....787111
**Telephone Information (directory assistance)** .....121
**Overseas Calls** .....010230
**Central Amman Telephone Repairs**.....623101
**Abdali Telephone Repairs** 661101
**Jordan Television** .....773111
**Radio Jordan** .....774111
**Water Authority** .....680100
**Jordan Electricity Authority** 815615
**Electric Power Company** 636381
**RJ Flight Information** 08-53200
**Queen Alia Intl. Airport** 08-53200

**HOSPITALS**

**AMMAN:**
**Hussein Medical Centre** 813813/32
**Khalidi Maternity,** 644281/6
**Akileh Maternity,** 642441/2
**Jabal Amman Maternity** 642362
**Malhas, J. Amman** ....636140
**Palestine, Shmeisani** 607071
**Shmeisani Hospital** 669131
**University Hospital** 845845
**Al-Muasber Hospital**667227/9
**The Islamic, Abdali** 666126/37
**Al-Ahli, Abdali** .....664164/6
**Italian, Al-Muhajreen**777101/3
**Al-Bashir,** .....775111/26
**Army, Marka**.....891611/15
**Queen Alia Hospital** 602240/50
**Amal Hospital**.....674155
**The Arab Centre for Heart and Special Surgery** ..865199
**ZARQA:**
**Zarqa Govt. Hospital** (09)983323
**Zarqa National Hospital** (09)900560
**Ibn Sina Hospital**(09)986732
**Al Hikma Modern Hospital** (09)990990
**IRBID:**
**Princess Basma Hospital** (02)275555
**Greek Catholic Hospital** (02)272275
**Ibn Al Nafees Hospital** (02)247100
**AQABA:**
**Princess Haya Hospital** (03)314111

**FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200 where it should always be verified.
Information on other flights are supplied on phone 08 (52700) or 08(53250).

**ARRIVALS**

**Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights**
**08:25** Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
**08:30** .....Jeddah (RJ)
**09:45** .....Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
**11:00** Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
**14:55** New York, Amsterdam (RJ)
**15:30** .....Brussels (RJ)
**16:30** .....Madrid (RJ)
**16:40** ..Toronto, Montreal (RJ)
**17:05** .....Istanbul (RJ)
**18:10** .....London, Berlin (RJ)
**18:10** Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
**18:30** .....Paris, Geneva (RJ)
**19:30** .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
**20:45** .....Rome (RJ)
**23:15** .....Beirut (RJ)
**00:05** .....Cairo (RJ)

**Other Flights**
**08:15** Karachi, Abu Dhabi (PK)
**09:30** .....Al 'Arish (PF)
**10:00** ...Sanaa, Hudaidah (IY)
**10:50** .....Kuwait (KU)
**11:00** .....Jeddah (SV)
**12:10** Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)
**12:15**..... Cairo (MS)
**12:50** .....Tel Aviv (LY)
**13:30** .....Tunis (TU)
**14:05** .....Vienna (OS)
**15:20** .....Algiers (AH)
**15:30** .....Dubai (EK)
**16:00** .....Doha (QR)
**18:30**.....Istanbul, Damascus (PK)
**19:40** .....London (GA)
**20:10**.....Beirut(ME)
**20:10** ...Paris, Damascus (AF)
**22:20** .....Istanbul (TK)
**22:25** .....Amsterdam (KL)
**22:30** .....Athens (OA)
**04:15**.....Ankara (TK)
**06:50**..... Amsterdam(GA)

**Royal Wings (RW)**

**07:45** .....Aqaba (RW)
**09:05** ..Amman (QAIA) (RW)
**09:50** Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
**17:20** .....Tel Aviv (RW)
**18:30** ..Amman (QAIA) (RW)
**21:20** .....Aqaba (RW)
**22:50** Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)

**DEPARTURES**

**06:00** Lamaca, Damascus (RJ)
**10:45** .....Berlin, London (RJ)
**11:45** .....Instabul (RJ)
**12:45** .....Istanbul (RJ)
**17:15** .....Tel Aviv (add) (RJ)
**19:15** .....Colombo (RJ)
**19:35** .....Beirut (RJ)
**20:10** .....Cairo (RJ)
**20:10** ..Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)
**21:05** .... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)
**20:15** Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
**21:10** .....Bombay (RJ)
**21:20** .....New Delhi (RJ)
**22:30** ....Bahrain, Doha (RJ)
**22:45** .....Sanaa (RJ)

**Other Flights**
**05:50**.....Larnaca (CY)
**07:45** .....Beirut (ME)
**07:50**..... Amsterdam (GA)
**08:25** .....London (BA)
**09:00** Damascus, Istanbul (PK)
**10:30** .....Al 'Arish (RJ)
**11:00**....Hudaidah, Sanaa (IY)
**11:30** .....Al 'Arish (PF)
**11:50** .....Kuwait (KU)
**12:30** .....Jeddah (SV)
**13:00** ..Bahrain, Muscat (GF)
**13:15**.....Cairo (MS)
**14:10** .....Tel Aviv (LY)
**14:30**.....Tunis (TU)
**14:50** .....Vienna (OS)
**16:20** .....Shariqah (AH)
**16:45** .....Dubai (EK)
**16:50** .....Doha (QR)
**19:15** Abu Dhabi, Karachi (PK)
**20:40** .....Denpasar (GA)
**22:55** .. Damascus, Paris (AF)
**23:25** Damascus, Amsterdam (KL)
**25:25** .....Ankara (TK)
**03:00**.....Athens (OA)
**05:15**.....Istanbul (TK)

**Royal Wings (RW)**

**06:45** .....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
**08:15** .....Aqaba (RW)
**09:30** ..Amman (QAIA) (RW)
**16:45** ....Amman (Marka Airport) (RW)
**17:55** .....Tel Aviv (RW)
**20:30** Amman (QAIA) (RW)
**21:50** .....Aqaba (RW)

## Women candidates' meeting examines platforms, priorities for coming elections

By Rana Husseini
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Women candidates in the upcoming Parliamentary elections Tuesday reached a consensus that their priorities when they reach the House are to fight poverty, unemployment, and corruption, and enhance the democratic process.

The 22 women spoke at a two-hour public meeting, organised by the Women's Committee for the 1997 Elections in conjunction with the Jordanian National Forum for Women, and attended by HRH Princess Basma, who chairs the forum.

So far, 24 women have expressed intentions to run for seats in Amman (9 candidates), Zarqa (2), Central Bedouins (1), Balqa (1), Irbid (3), Mafraq (1), Jerash (1), Ajloun (1), Karak (3), and Aqaba (2).

Toujan Faisal, the outspoken opposition deputy who represented Amman's Third District in the outgoing Parliament, said in a strongly-worded speech that it is "because of wrong political decisions that corruption and poverty spread in our society.

"The only way to fight these problems is to first achieve a comprehensive democracy by respecting and implementing the Constitution, which is the main point of reference and connects the people with the ruler." Ms. Faisal, the first women to win a seat in the Lower House in Jordan's history, said.

Ms. Faisal, who first ran in 1989 but lost, stressed like she did in her two previous election campaigns that she is running for Parliament "as a politician and not as a woman."

Aysheh Khawaja-Razem, 45, a poet who is running in the Amman First District, and who also lost in the 1989 elections, said she will address the public's concerns and demands "through my participation in the political life.

"I want to participate in the political life so I can work on changing many of the laws that are old and discriminate against women," Ms. Khawaja-Razem said.

Emily Naffa', who is running for the Third District Christian seat under the campaign slogan of "Equality for women, Democracy for all and Social Justice for the poor," echoed Ms. Khawaja-Razem's concerns for amending some legislation.

"It is essential for that a large number of women reach Parliament and form a pressure group in order to modernise the unjust and discriminatory legislation," Ms. Naffa', a political activist for the past 42 years, said.

Ms. Naffa', who was also a member of the Jordanian Communist Party, stressed the need to institutionalise democracy and said she will demand the cancellation of temporary laws, such as the Press Law, and the one-person, one-vote system, "and instead form modern laws to cope with our current life."

Norma Nasser, another candidate for the Third District Christian seat, said her slogan is "Jerusalem should remain an Arab city," and stated that she will fight corruption, unemployment, poverty, and favouritism.

Fatmeh Hassouneh, a Sahab council member who worked in the field of education for 22 years, and who is running in the Fourth District, stated that she will work on monitoring the government's performance and "call for implementing a democracy, which is the basis for everything."

Journalist Fardous Masri, who is running in the Fifth District, said she will fight for the poor, a continuation of her work as a journalist for the past decade, and stated that she will continue her credibility as a journalist in the House.

Laila Faisal, running for the Fifth District Circassian seat, also said she will concentrate on institutionalising democracy and address other important issues, such as food and medicine problems, protecting the environment, and agricultural reform.

Ms. Faisal's competitor for the same seat, Hiam Kalimat, who echoed most of the candidates, added that she will fight the "misuse of underground water, which should be preserved."

Further, Ms. Kalimat said she will concentrate on agriculture by implementing the "agricultural village, a project that will secure sufficient agricultural products and guarantee competition in the Arab markets."

Sabah Anatti and Nadia Bushnaq, who are running in Zarqa, Samihah Tel, Fatmeh Obeidat, and Latifeh Azeh, all running in Irbid, and Zaha Mahassneh, running in Jerash, all had similar reform programmes, mainly focusing on poverty, education, unemployment, preserving the environment, and raising women's issues.

From Balqa, candidate Ajayeb Hderis reviewed her candidacy programme, which included several social reforms, and said she will call for separation of the legislative and executive authorities, and for the right of the Palestinian people to return to their lands.

For Wisaf Ka'abneh, who is running for the Central Bedouin seat, it was a courageous move "for me, a female, to run for the elections, especially in my conservative society.

"I will address the concerns of men and women in my tribe, and I hope that my step will encourage other women in my tribe to run for future elections," Ms. Ka'abneh said.

Nawal Momani, a nurse who is running in Ajloun, said she will concentrate on health issues.

Further, she emphasised that she will support the peace process with Israel, and support a Palestinian state.

Hafizah Ma'aytah and Siham Bayaidah, both running in Karak, pointed to the poverty in their governorate, despite the presence of the potash factory, and the unemployment problems that face their graduates.

"Karak has natural resources and should be one of the richest governorates in the Kingdom, yet we are the poorest, and we both want to reach Parliament to debate with officials on this point," they said.

A third candidate running in Karak is Khadijeh Habashneh-Abu Ali, who described herself as a Palestinian fighter in the past, and "now as a fighter for democratic reform in my country, Jordan.

"The absence of democracy created social, political, and economic destruction in our society, and my programme will concentrate on strengthening democracy, justice, equality, freedom, and dignity for all," Ms. Habashneh-Abu Ali said.

Improving tourism in Aqaba and fighting for fishermen's rights, easing government procedures, and fighting bureaucracy to encourage investment were the top issues on her agenda.

Salwa Nasser, the non-governmental coordinator at the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development, outlined the women's committee goals, which she include uniting women's efforts and changing their stereotyped image in society.

"With the initiative and the support of Princess Basma, we are uniting the efforts of all women's organisations and at the same time we are focusing on strengthening women's independence and implementing programmes to insure their success in the political life," Ms. Nasser said.

## Officials ordered to work Friday to receive candidates' applications

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Tuesday issued instructions to district governors, administrators, employees of the Ministry of Finance and its various departments, and employees of the Civil Registration and Passports Department to be at work Friday Oct. 10 to receive applications from candidates running in the upcoming general elections.

The prime minister's circular said the officials will be in their offices from eight in the morning until two in the afternoon for three days, starting Friday, in order to accept candidates' applications.

According to the Elections Law of 1986, each candidate should pay JD500 to the head of the finance department in his or her district and present a duplicate application attached to the other required documents during the three-day limit for declaring candidacy.

Meanwhile, the Ministry of Interior Tuesday began receiving blank diskettes from candidates, which will be fed with information and later returned.

The information in the diskettes includes a list of the voters' names in the districts, their voting centres, and the number of ballot boxes, among other information, according to a ministry official.

These procedures followed Monday's swearing-in of the heads and members of the central elections committees who will be in charge of the election process.

## Bids for power plant received, contract to be awarded in one month — minister

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources has received bids from 17 international firms to build a 400-megawatt electric power plant by the year 2001, and examination of bids and the announcement of tenders for the project are expected to be completed within one month.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Saleh Horani, who made the announcement Tuesday during the regular Cabinet session, noted that of these firms, five were American, nine European, two Japanese, and one Malaysian.

The new plant will help meet the Kingdom's electrical needs until the year 2004, he said.

The minister said he expected the winning firm to start construction on the plant in the second part of 1998, noting that the plant will be the first to be erected by the private sector, a move which the government considers as the first step towards the privatisation of the electricity sector.

The government started restructuring the energy and electricity sectors in 1993 by opening the door for private sector investment in energy and electricity projects, according to Dr. Horani.

Since 1993, several steps have been taken to promote energy and electricity production, including:

— an amendment to the 1996 law on electricity,

— the transformation of the Jordan Electricity Authority into a public shareholding company known as the Jordan Electric Power Company (JEPCO), which is marked by the government for privatisation,

— establishment of a national oil company, and

— a mandate to private sector to explore for oil and natural gas.

Dr. Horani said the restructuring was deemed necessary in view of the growing demand on electric power in the past few years, recent world economic and political developments, and the globalisation of the economy and investments.

He outlined the general policies of his ministry, its recent achievements and plans for the future.

The Council of Ministers approved a loan agreement between the Industrial Development Bank and the European Investment Bank totalling nearly $31.8 million, the establishment of an administrative unit at the Ministry of Planning to manage the social safety package plan, which will cost JD163.6 million annually, and a Jordanian-Czech agreement on promoting and protecting investments signed last month.

The Cabinet accepted an invitation to take part in the general conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO), to open Oct. 21 in Paris, and delegated Minister of Education and Higher Education Munther Masri to attend the meeting.

It also formed a delegation to take part in a meeting organised by the European Union for countries of the Mediterranean region on Oct. 12-15 in Italy.

## Japan extends financial support to two educational projects in Mafraq Governorate

AMMAN (J.T.) — The government of Japan has extended a $121,656 grant to two projects in the educational sector in Mafraq, according to a Japanese embassy press release Tuesday.

Takayuki Kimura, ambassador of Japan to Jordan, signed two agreements to this effect at the embassy on Tuesday with Atallah Husban, mayor of Mafraq, and Khalid Shahin, acting director of Mafraq Badia Educational Directorate, the statement continued.

The grant for the first project, totalling $76,683, will help the Mafraq Municipality construct a children's library in the city. The donation for the second project, $44,973, will be used to purchase chairs and desks for 36 schools of the Mafraq Educational Directorate, the largest in Jordan, the announcement read.

The provision of the classroom furniture will help improve school facilities and provide a better educational environment for students, the statement continued.

These grants are the first for the Mafraq Governorate under the Japanese Grant Assistance for Grassroots Projects (GAGP) since its introduction into Jordan in 1993, and the fourth and the fifth for the Japanese fiscal year 1997, according to the statement.

Within the framework of GAGP, the government of Japan has so far donated $2,263,289 to non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and local communities. Of this amount, $388,112 has been used in the educational sector with the aim of providing students with a favourable educational climate, the statement said.

Regarding Japanese assistance in the educational sector, the government of Japan provided a soft loan worth 7.1 billion Japanese yen for Jordan's Human Resources Development Sector Investment Project (Stage II), which would be used to improve the quality of vocational education. The government of Japan extended a soft loan for the first stage of the project, therefore, Japanese soft loans to the educational sector total 17.1 billion yen (approximately $142.5 million), the announcement continued.

At the end of the signing ceremony, Mr. Kimura said: "Since Jordan has limited natural resources, like Japan, we believe that education is the most important factor for the development of the country. The Japanese embassy will continue to support human development and primary education projects. We hope the assistance to this sector will lead to better living standard to the Jordanian public," the statement concluded.

## Tarawneh, U.N. refugee commission ratify agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Foreign Minister Fayez Tarawneh and Representative of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Jordan Zobaida Ashgarie Tuesday exchanged instruments of ratification of the cooperation agreement between Jordan and the UNHCR.

Under the agreement, which was signed July 30 and recently endorsed by a Royal Decree, both the government and UNHCR commit themselves to implement the agreement's provisions.

The exchange of instruments ratification ceremony was attended by the UNHCR's senior legal consultant Kamal Abdul Rahim, Director of the Information Department at the ministry Khaldoun Talhouni, head of the ministry's legal department Ibrahim Dabbas, and senior Foreign Ministry officials.

Also Monday, Deputy Prime Minister for Services and Minister of Administrative Development Abdullah Ensour and Ms. Ashagrie discussed the facilities provided by the government to UNHCR to enable it to carry out its humanitarian mission effectively.

Dr. Ensour pointed out that no single Arab country has either received or absorbed the large number of refugees Jordan has.

He stated that Jordan has done and will continue to do its best to ensure a decent life for refugees and to solve their problems.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

**FILMS**

* "Poulet Au Vinaigre" at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, at 8:30 p.m.
* Children's film "Revolting Rhymes" at the British Council, Jabal Amman at 5:00 p.m.

**PLAY**

* Children's play "Shahrour and Traffic Rules" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m. (daily until Oct. 16).

**CONCERT**

* Musical performance by Al Hannonah Band of Musical Art at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

**EXHIBITIONS**

* "The Project of the Essence. Aspects of the Italian Paintings in the 90's" at the Faculty of Fine Arts, Yarmouk University, until Oct. 22.
* Japanese pottery exhibition by Soei Obiya at the Royal Cultural Centre, until Oct. 9.
* Exhibition of paintings and weaving entitled "Murmurs of Our Land" by Rihan Ghassib and Bani Hamida at Bani Hamida House (Tel. 658696/7), until Oct. 30.
* Exhibition of Catalan masters of the 20th century entitled "Aura Mediterrània" at the Jordan National Gallery of Fine Arts, until Oct. 28 (except Tuesdays).
* Quilt exhibition "Piecing It Together" by Ms. Virginia Harris at the American Centre, Abdoun, until Oct. 20.

## Diplomats' wives briefed on goals of Badia programme

AMMAN (Petra) — Sharifeh Zein Bint Nasser, public relations and finance director of the Jordan Badia Research and Development Programme (JBRDP), Tuesday briefed the wives of diplomats serving in Jordan on the programme, stating that it is designed to develop the desert and badia regions to improve the living conditions of their inhabitants, without changing their traditional lifestyle.

The programme, which was started upon the directives of HRH Crown Prince Hassan in 1992, entails the creation of the Safawi Field Research Centre to conduct studies and research for improving living standards of the badia inhabitants, according to Sharifeh Zein.

Sharifeh Zein outlined the achievements of this programme, including the development of human and natural resources with the help of local and foreign specialists, noting that the programme is financed by the Friends of the Badia Fund (FBF), which was established in 1994.

The FBF collects donations from people and organisations inside Jordan to finance research work, but the available funds are not sufficient, according to Sharifeh Zein, who noted that the Higher Council for Science and Technology has been providing JD200,000 per annum for the programme.

Another fund has been created in order to collect donations from foreign governments and non-governmental institutions, she stated.

JBRDP Director Mohammad Shahbaz told the meeting, which was organised by the Wives of Diplomats Club, that the programme focuses on the development of human resources, livestock wealth, water resources, soil, and pasture lands.

Mr. Shahbaz said the 1997-2000 working plan entails developing the cultural, economic, and social life of the badia region, in addition to providing residents with skills to increase their food production.

## *Ninth European Film Festival to begin Thursday*

By Ghalia Alul
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Ten European Union (EU) member states will present films from their countries at the Ninth European Film Festival, to open in Amman Thursday.

At a press conference Tuesday, the Economic Counsellor at the Delegation of the Commission of the European Communities in Jordan Ramon Mestres said the festival will be an opportunity to further enhance the cultural exchange between countries of the EU and Jordan.

"The festival will create a climate of understanding of the European culture...since each European country has a different historical background," he said.

The proceeds of the festival will go to the Centre for Special Education of the Young Muslim Women's Association.

First Secretary at the Dutch embassy John Kappert told journalists that his country will present the film Oeroeg (Going Home) at the opening of the festival, to be held under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath.

Since Luxembourg, the current president of the EU, maintains no permanent mission in Jordan, the Netherlands will open the festival on its behalf.

The film Oeroeg tells a story of a friendship between two boys, one the son of a Dutch plantation owner and the other of an Indonesian worker at the same plantation. The boys' friendship is torn apart by their historical circumstances.

**A scene from the Greek film, 'Me Mia Cravyi,' one of the films to be presented during the Ninth European Film Festival**

The Belgian film, Toto Le Heros, depicts a child convinced that he was exchanged at birth with his neighbour, Alfred, and who struggles to take back his "rightful" destiny.

The film from Germany, Fitzcarraldo, reflects the dream of a man who longs to create his own opera in the Amazon jungle, but has no financial support for his "absurd project."

The Greek film, Me Mia Cravyi (Desire), tells the story of two siblings, Zoe and Lou, separated at the ages of 10 and 11 to live in orphanages and reform schools. Together, they decide to run away from the institutions, then separate again. Lou and Zoe search for each other in a journey of initiation and tribulation.

The film from Spain, Tengo Una Casa (I Have a House), gathers characters from everyday life: a failed musician, a criminal followed by the police, a radio broadcaster, and an attractive teenager.

The French film, Grosse Fatigue (Great Tiredness), talks about a screenplay writer who is accused of rape.

The Italian film, Il Grande Cocomero (The Great Pumpkin), tells the story of a 12-year old girl who suffers from epilepsy. Her psychiatrist tries to persuade her to accept her illness, then attempts to find out the secret of her family, which is unable to face her illness.

The Austrian film, Malambo, is a comedy that portrays the dream world of a community of friends, who are building "castles in the air" for themselves in search for a better life.

The film from Sweden, Elvira Madigan, is based on a true story of a lieutenant who shot his beloved Elvira Madigan, a circus tightrope walker, and then himself.

Sense And Sensibility, a British film based upon the Jane Austin novel, tells the story of two sisters and their mother who are deprived from their home and inheritance after the death of their father.

The festival, organised by the EC delegation and EU member state embassies to the Kingdom, will be open to the public Monday with two showings per film, the first at 8:00 pm and the second the following day at 4:30 pm. The festival is taking place at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### The Amman Marriott Hotel Holds Charity Events for a Special Cause

The Amman Marriott Hotel held the annual Train Ride for the benefit of Al Hussein Society for the Education and Rehabilitation of Physically Handicapped.
The Train Ride raised JD6,000 and the cheque was proudly presented to Princess Majda Ra'd by Mr. Martyn Standen, General Manager of the Amman Marriott Hotel.

# Queen Elizabeth starts first foreign trip since Diana's death

ISLAMABAD (R) — Queen Elizabeth began her first foreign trip since Princess Diana's death Tuesday, arriving under rainy skies in Islamabad to mark Pakistan's . 50th anniversary of independence from British rule.

Accompanied by her husband Prince Philip and Foreign Secretary Robin Cook, the queen was greeted with a 21-gun salute as she stepped on to the damp tarmac of Chaklala air force base from her chartered British Airways Boeing 767.

Dressed in a canary yellow coat with matching broad-brimmed hat, with a white handbag and gloves, the queen was presented with flowers by a Pakistani boy and girl in traditional dress and welcomed by Pakistani Foreign Minister Gohar Ayub Khan.

The royal motorcade from the airport passed multi-coloured flags and banners saying "Greetings to our royal guests" and "Long live Pak-U.K. friendship."

At the Aiwan-E-Sadr presidential palace, the queen was received by President Farooq Leghari.

As British and Pakistani national anthems played, the queen reviewed a military honour guard of lancers whose ceremonial uniforms and orders barked in English evoked memories of the long-gone raj.

The queen was then taken to Islamabad's spectacular Shah Faisal Mosque, which can accommodate 74,000 worshippers in its huge prayer hall and courtyard.

The mosque, a gift of the late Saudi King Faisal, is an integral part of Pakistan's newly purpose-built capital of Islamabad, a city which did not exist when the queen paid her last visit to the country in 1961.

**Britian's Queen Elizabeth (centre) is framed between saluting soldiers as she inspects the Honour Guard during a welcoming ceremony at the Presidential Palace in Islamabad (Reuter photo)**

Officials say the queen's visit to Pakistan is also meant as a gesture of respect to the nearly one million Britons of Pakistani origin now living in her country.

The queen's visit to Pakistan will be followed by a trip to India next week.

It is her first trip abroad since the death of Princess Diana in a car crash on Aug. 31 which focused attention on the royal family and its role in modern-day Britain.

The tour comes at a time when tension between archrivals India and Pakistan is high with artillery clashes along the Kashmir border which have led to the deaths of more than 30 people.

Tight security is expected when the queen pays a brief visit to the violence-torn city of Karachi Thursday to lay a wreath on the tomb of Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the father of Pakistan.

In India, the queen goes to Amritsar to lay a wreath at the Jallianwala Bagh, where in 1919 British soldiers under General Reginald Dyer shot dead 379 unarmed Indians staging a protest rally.

Indian sources put the death toll much higher in an incident when guns were turned on crowds unable to escape from an area whose only exit had been blocked off.

The queen will not respond to demands from some Sikh leaders and relatives of the dead for a public apology. Laying a wreath when she visits the city on Oct. 14 is seen as an appropriate way of showing the queen's regret over the massacre which became a symbol of colonial cruelty.

India had originally suggested that the queen should drop the Amritsar leg of her visit because of security fears, but this angered Sikh leaders who wanted her to visit their city.

While there, the queen will also visit the Golden Temple, the Sikhs' holiest shrine, which was itself engulfed in violence between Sikh militants and Indian government forces in 1984.

# Irish foreign minister resigns

DUBLIN (AFP) — Irish Foreign Minister Ray Burke, who has been linked to a Dublin land scandal, announced his resignation Tuesday.

Mr. Burke, who has been co-chairing the Northern Ireland peace talks, has hardly left the headlines in recent weeks because of a $45,000 political donation he received in 1989.

He said in a statement Tuesday the ongoing controversy prevented him from giving the "total focus" he judged necessary on Northern Ireland and the challenges Ireland faced in Europe. He also said he was resigning as a member of parliament after 24 years.

He reiterated that he had "done nothing wrong and I look forward to fully cooperating with any investigation."

Government and opposition parties have still to agree the scope of a judicial inquiry into the donation and allegations of political corruption surrounding land deals north of Dublin.

More recently questions have arisen over $30 million deal to grant 11 Irish passports to a wealthy Saudi Arabian banker and his associates.

Revelations that Prime Minister Bertie Ahern has carried out a number of investigations into the granting of the passports to Sheikh Khalid Bin Mahfouz in 1990 have increased the pressure on Mr. Burke and caused tension between the coalition partners.

Ireland's passports-for-sale scheme grants citizenship to wealthy foreigners — usually at the rate of about a million punts ($1.5 million) per passport with the cash invested in job-creating industry.

The Mahfouz citizenship deal has never been fully explained since the passports were reported to have been personally handed over by then premier Charles Haughey. Mr. Burke was minister for justice at the time.

An investigation of the deal by the Department of Justice — published in full in the Irish Times newspaper Monday — discovered a number of "errors and discrepancies" in the passport applications process.

# Tories "have a mountain to climb"

BLACKPOOL, England (AFP) — Conservative leader William Hague said Tuesday that his party, decimated in May's general election, had a "mountain to climb" to win back public support.

"We have a mountain to climb, a hard battle to win. But together, united and reformed, we can and we shall prevail," he told the four-day annual party conference opening here.

Mr. Hague said his objective was to make the party, currently at its lowest ever levels in opinion polls, "the most dynamic and successful force in British politics in the new century about to begin"

He pledged to double membership, currently around 400,000, but admitted the Conservatives had "a mammoth task ahead."

Analysing the reasons for the party's defeat, he said: "Our parliamentary party came to be seen as divided, arrogant, selfish and conceited. Our party as a whole was regarded as out of touch and irrelevant. That is the truth of it and we have to come to terms with it."

But he said he was committed to reforming the party. "Our organisation is in desperate need of reform. ... If we are to win the next election then we must start now by putting our own house in order."

And he stressed this reform had to come from the rank and file of the party itself. "I want to give you power," he told the 3,500 delegates, who applauded enthusiastically.

"I want to see in our party more black people, more Asians, I want to see more young people and, along with them, I want to see many more women on our benches in the House of Commons"

Mr. Hague was speaking shortly after the conference was told that 80 per cent of the party balloted during the last few weeks had backed his call for reforms.

But there was no alternative on the ballot paper — it was a case of "back me or sack me" for Hague, who succeeded John Major following the May election debacle.

# UNHCR says DRC is mounting disinformation campaign against it

GENEVA (AFP) — Media broadcasts in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) are falsely accusing the U.N. High Commissioner of Refugees (UNHCR) of arming Rwandan refugees, the U.N. agency said Tuesday.

"We are very concerned about what appears to be an intensified anti-UNHCR campaign broadcast on radio and local television, particularly in Uvira" in the east of former Zaire, said UNHCR spokeswoman Pamela O'Toole.

The U.N. agency has been accused of encouraging Rwandan refugees to come into the DRC and of supplying them with arms, she said, adding: "The charges are absolutely false and baseless."

The DRC government has meanwhile suspended relief activities by the UNHCR and other humanitarian organisations in the east and closed its border with Rwanda to prevent any further refugee arrivals.

Despite rumours that a large number of people are fleeing unrest in northwestern Rwanda, Ms. O'Toole said: "We haven't seen any evidence of large refugees influxes."

She acknowledged, however, that some refugees may be hiding in the Birunga game park near Goma, the capital of North Kivu province on the border with Rwanda.

Refugees who have arrived from villages near Gisenyi and Ruhengeri, across the border from Goma on the northern shores of Lake Kivu, have reported killings being committed there, she said.

Gisenyi has reportedly seen a flare-up of violence between Rwanda's Tutsi-led army and Hutu extremist militia forces and former government soldiers first ousted by Tutsi rebels in 1994.

When the new DRC's President Laurent Kabila launched his successful seven-month rebellion against Zairian dictator Mobutu Sese Seko last October, he was backed by the Rwandan government and fought by armed Hutus among the refugees.

Since then, as thousands of Rwandans poured back across the border home to flee Kabila's initially mainly Tutsi rebels, the region has again become an ethnic powderkeg, with clashes between different armed groups and reported killings of witnesses to Rwandan genocide in 1994.

The UNHCR has not obtained clarification from the DRC government concerning which U.N. agencies and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) must suspend their operations.

The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the World Food Programme said they have not been asked to leave.

The UNHCR Monday evacuated 10 humanitarian workers from Goma including nine of its personnel. Seven expatriates are staying on along with a local staff of 87.

No new departures are planned until the situation is clarified, Ms. O'Toole said.

The UNHCR is continuing operations in two other eastern DRC centres, in Bukavu, capital of South Kivu province at the southern end of Lake Kivu, and Uvira, further south on the border with Burundi, which is also wracked by conflict between Tutsi-dominated authorities and Hutu rebels.

The U.N. agency has 12 expatriate workers and 70 local staff in Bukavu, and 12 expatriates and 31 locals in Uvira.

UNHCR chief Sadako Ogata Monday accused Mr. Kabila's government of contravening international conventions on refugees. Some 800 refugees were expelled to Rwanda at the weekend, mainly women and children, according to the UNHCR.

## *Rival militia battle for control of Brazzaville*

KINSHASA (AFP) — Militiamen loyal to rival leaders Tuesday exchanged heavy artillery fire in the Congolese capital Brazzaville, an AFP correspondent said in Kinshasa, from where the clashes across the Congo River were audible.

Clashes between supporters of Congolese President Pascal Lissouba and the forces of former head of state Denis Sassou Nguesso have left at least 4,000 dead since June 5, according to official figures, and no sign of a negotiated solution is in sight.

An independent source reached in Brazzaville from Kinshasa, capital of the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), said that shelling was taking place outside the town centre, but could not say exactly where the guns were based.

A week ago, Mr. Lissouba's supporters, including troops and his "Zoulou" militiamen, said they had taken control of several positions in central Brazzaville and in Mpila in the east of the capital, otherwise held by Mr. Sassou Nguesso's "Cobra" militia.

The positions included the railway station, the prime minister's offices and part of the river bank, situated just over 500 metres from General Sassou Nguesso's private residence.

According to witness accounts, from Brazzaville, Cobra militia have pushed back Mr. Lissouba's forces more than 600 metres level with the main post office opposite the French embassy.

Confusion has reigned over the control of strategic points by rival forces and Tuesday's reports were not independently confirmed.

A ceasefire plan put forward in September by eight African heads of state, headed by Gabonese President Omar Bongo, meeting in Libreville, has been signed by Mr. Lissouba and his Prime Minister Bernard Kolelas, government radio said.

Mr. Sassou Nguesso is hostile to the constitutional court's extension of Mr. Lissouba's mandate beyond its expiry date of Aug. 31 and to last month's appointment of Mr. Kolelas, the former mayor of Brazzaville, as prime minister.

Mr. Sassou Nguesso lost multiparty elections to Mr. Lissouba in 1992 after presiding over more than a decade of military rule. His party accuses Mr. Kolelas, who has his own militia, of dropping his former neutrality to side with the president.

# 16 killed in Ukraine train/bus crash

KIEV (R) — Sixteen people were killed and two badly injured when a train slammed into a bus in central Ukraine Tuesday, an Emergencies Ministry spokesman said.

"The train from Dnipropetrovsk to Pavlograd crashed into a passenger bus at 8.50 a.m. (0550 GMT), killing 16 people and seriously injuring two more. The victims were all passengers of the bus," Oleh Bykov, the ministry's press chief, said.

Mr. Bykov said an investigation had begun into the causes of the crash but could give no more details.

"A commission headed by deputy Emergencies Minister Volodymyr Volkov has gone to investigate the tragedy and to give assistance," he said.

Railroads, highways and the transport sector in general in former Soviet Republics like Ukraine are in a dilapidated state and often overcrowded.

This was one of the biggest transport disasters in Ukraine since the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991.

Mr. Bykov said it would overshadow plans to celebrate his ministry's first anniversary later this month.

Ukraine's last big crash was in July 1996 when 33 people were killed after a tram's brakes failed on a slope.

Officials ordered checks of all trams, buses and trolleybuses after the vehicle left the rails and slammed into a concrete barrier in the eastern city of Dniprodzerzhinsk.

A month later 76 Ukrainian coal miners and members of their families were killed when a Russian plane crashed on the Norwegian Arctic island of Spitzbergen.

# British MPs to vote on lowering age of consent for gays

LONDON (AFP) — British MPs will decide in a free vote whether to bring the age of consent for homosexual males down to the one that now applies for heterosexuals, a gay rights group said Tuesday.

This decision follows an appeal in May to the European Court of Justice and the European Commission of Human Rights which had judged the discrimination between homosexuals and heterosexuals to be unjustified.

The Labour government decided in July not to fight the appeal filed by two homosexuals, Euan Sutherland and Chris Morris, at the European Court in Strasbourg.

"Following the publication of the report from the European Commission of Human Rights, the government has agreed not to contest the cases while at the same time allowing parliament a free vote on the question of equalising the age of consent," the director of Stonewall, Angela Mason, said.

She described the government's decision as a "historic step."

"We have always argued that this issue is a question of human rights and we are delighted that the commission has endorsed this view," Ms. Mason said.

The vote will decide whether or not to lower the age of consent for male homosexuals from 21 to 16 years, after it was brought from 21 to 18 in 1994 by the former Conservative government.

There are no laws governing the age of consent for lesbian relationships.

If the vote is positive, the government will change the law at the latest before the next parliamentary session, according to Stonewall.

A free vote in the House of Commons means MPs will be free to vote according to their own views, rather than abiding by their parties' respective lines.

# H. Kong gives leader Tung thumbs-up on day 100

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong people are giving their first Chinese leader, Tung Chee-Hwa, a general thumbs-up as the former British colony prepares to toast its 100th day under Beijing's Communist red flag.

On the eve of the 100th day and his landmark policy speech, opinion polls showed the 60-year-old former shipping magnate warmly embraced as leader and China as the new sovereign power, even if many people had misgivings about government policy.

Two surveys gave Mr. Tung approval ratings of 68 and 65.8 per cent, putting him roughly on a par with the highly popular last colonial British governor, Chris Patten.

But the new helmsman has to steer Hong Kong through some turbulent political, economic and social currents.

Reminding Mr. Tung of resistance to undemocratic rule, the flagship of the pro-democracy movement, the Democratic Party, is staging a sit-down protest through the night on the doorsteps of the legislative council (LEGCO).

It is from there, a neo-classical colonial building that once housed the Supreme Court, that the democrats were ousted when China dissolved the elected LEGCO and installed an unelected interim chamber on July 1.

LEGCO's wood-panelled chamber, where the British royal crest and Union Jack have been replaced by China's red flag and Hong Kong's Bauhinia blossom emblem, is where Mr. Tung will make his maiden "State of the territory" address Wednesday afternoon.

The annual October policy speech is, ironically, also a colonial relic, a tradition dating from the 1850s, soon after British gunboats seized Hong Kong from China.

But Mr. Tung, who came into the job from political obscurity after decades as a business executive and company boss, or "Taipan", sees it as one of the most testing days of his life.

"Tomorrow will be the first 100 days... It is also the day I will deliver a policy address to the provisional legislature. It is a very important day," Mr. Tung said Tuesday.

"The policy speech will brief the Hong Kong people and the executive council on the blueprint of running Hong Kong in the hope that Hong Kong will be a fair, democratic, prosperous and vibrant society," he told reporters after a cabinet meeting.

Governing a territory that has no constitutional forebears in history, Mr. Tung lacks the benefit of precedent to guide him as the first post-colonial leader.

The territory of 6.5 million people is virtually an autonomous capitalist enclave of China. It is formally called a special administrative region, and Mr. Tung is its chief executive.

Under a deal between China and Britain, Hong Kong can keep its capitalist way of life and its border with mainland China, and run all its affairs except defence and diplomacy.

Mr. Tung has tried to shift the focus of political debate in Hong Kong away from the fate of democracy and human rights and into the realm of bread and butter issues which his aides say will form the bedrock of his policy speech.

He spelled out the policies broadly at his inauguration three months ago. Now he will add flesh to the bones.

His major worries include declining cost competitiveness in a city that is Asia's financial services hub and the main trade gateway between China and the world.

Astronomical property prices, relatively high labour and manufacturing costs, and a muscular currency that makes Hong Kong expensive alongside troubled Southeast Asia, all help weaken competitiveness.

Mr. Tung is expected to assail sky-high home prices, falling education standards, mounting tensions between employers and workers and poverty among the elderly in his policy vision.

Wednesday he is likely to announce higher welfare payments to the old and go further on his pledge to add 85,000 new dwellings to the housing supply every year, compared to 30,000 that came on stream last year in a territory where a tiny flat costs $1 million.

But at the same time he has bashed common workers by rolling back labour rights laws.

He has also backed a proposal to import labour from China, which would help to depress the price of labour here, a move welcomed by Hong Kong's "tycoon government".

# Scores disappear in anti-drug war in northern Mexico — report

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Scores of people, including a few Americans, have disappeared in northern Mexico at the hands of federal authorities in an ongoing war against drug traffickers, The New York Times reported Tuesday.

The disappearances are blamed by human rights groups on Mexican security forces in the pay of drug traffickers or overzealous police and soldiers involved in a dirty war against suspected drug traffickers.

They are most numerous in the border city of Juarez, stronghold of Mexico's most powerful drug cartel where nearly 90 people, including eight U.S. citizens, have vanished after being picked up by federal authorities, the daily said.

Evidence suggests some were arrested and killed by police or soldiers hired by drug traffickers to eliminate rivals or punish debtors, while others were detained for interrogation by anti-drug agents.

Human rights groups said Mexican authorities have appointed a special investigator, but so far have not solved a single disappearance.

"We're seeing disappearances of the type seen in the 1970s (in Latin America), and the number of reported cases has shot up over the last year and a half," the head of Amnesty International's programmes in Latin America, Morris Tidball Binz, is quoted as saying.

The lack of cooperation from authorities has prompted relatives of the missing in Juarez and adjacent El Paso to form the Association of Relatives of Disappeared Persons.

U.S. consular authorities in Mexico said their involvement has been limited because only the families of two out of eight missing Americans have sought help. Juarez mayor, Juan Ramon Galindo, told the daily he did not know who was behind the disappearances but "wouldn't be surprised to find that federal police are involved.

"One of our problems is that our officers can be bought. These are Mexican, not American police, and they reflect Mexico's problems: the lack of education, poverty. We can't hope that they will act like police from other places," Ms. Galindo said.

# Papon to face historic trial from behind bars

PARIS (AFP) — French wartime official Maurice Papon prepared to turn himself in to police custody Tuesday ahead of the start of his trial on charges of crimes against humanity, in a case that will force France to confront its collaborationist past during World War II.

The 87-year-old left his home outside Paris heading for the Gradignan detention centre near Bordeaux, where the historic trial is to open under maximum security Wednesday.

Even as he left he denounced the trial as a "masquerade" unworthy of France, reiterating his claim that he is being made a scapegoat for the wartime Vichy regime.

"This charge is a masquerade unworthy of a lawful state," he said in a statement. "The game-plan has been worked out in advance, with no appeal ... the reality of the era has been misrepresented and falsified."

Some 115 witnesses are scheduled to be called to testify at the special Assize Court over Mr. Papon's role in sending 1,560 Jews on the first stage of their journey to the Auschwitz death camp in Poland.

If convicted by the court, *comprising a jury and three* judges, Mr. Papon faces life imprisonment. The trial is expected to last until Christmas.

Mr. Papon, in the statement released by his lawyer Jean-Marc Varaut, said he now had to rely on the good sense of those jurors.

"Since one can do nothing against the waves of fanaticism whipped up in the media, the persecution and hatred, one has to appeal to the real France, so that the popular jury can judge in independence and *impartiality*," he said.

Mr. Papon is the last surviving wartime French official accused of collaboration with Nazi authorities and crimes against humanity. Under French law, there is no time limit on bringing charges of crimes against humanity.

Specifically the charges concern the dispatch of 1,560 Jews by train from the southwest Bordeaux region to the death camps.

Mr. Papon also allegedly signed orders for the seizure of hundreds of items of Jewish property left by deportees up until 1944, says an *association* of deportees' families.

Under French law, Mr. Papon, who has been free but on police bail since he was notified of the trial, is required to surrender to custody on the eve of the trial, likely to be the last trial of such importance touching events 50 years ago.

The former *minister* evaded a pack of journalists outside his home with the help of police, who parked two cars in front of the houses as decoys. Mr. Papon left from a back exit.

Mr. Papon's lawyer Marcel Rouxel said Tuesday that he planned to accompany his client to the Gradignan detention centre Tuesday evening.

Some 300 riot police have been draughted in to Bordeaux amid maximum security surrounding the start of the trail.

Mr. Papon has claimed he is a "scapegoat" for the Vichy regime, led by Marshal Philippe Petain, and the victim of persecution by "Communists."

He has fought a 15-year *legal battle to avoid trial in* the Gironde region of southwestern France where he was secretary-general at the prefecture between 1942 and 1944 in charge of "the Jewish question."

Mr. Papon will appear in court personally, despite health problems including a triple heart bypass last year.

The trial will begin with presentations of the historical context of the Vichy government in occupied France and its anti-Jewish laws, before focussing on Mr. Papon's role as an official in Bordeaux.

From the end of October the court will examine specific evidence about his role in dispatching 10 trainloads of Jews who ultimately ended up in the gas chambers.

His case follows that of Paul Touvier, the former French militia chief in Lyon, in 1994. He died in prison.

A woman passes by an earthquake damaged hospital in Nocera Umbra, near Assisi (Reuter photo)

# New quakes hit Italy, damage Assisi basilica

ASSISI, Italy (R) — Fresh tremors hit central Italy Tuesday, sending residents rushing out into the streets in panic and causing more damage to the 13th century basilica of St. Francis in Assisi.

The first quake, which officials said measured between 4.0 and 5.0 on the Richter scale, shook the area at 1.23 a.m. (2323 GMT) and could be felt in Rome, some 100 kilometres to the southwest.

It was the fourth big quake in 12 days to have its epicentre near the village of Colfiorito and lasted between five and six seconds.

Several smaller quakes rocked the region in subsequent hours throughout the early morning.

No serious injuries or deaths were reported *although there were several* minor injuries sustained by frightened people fleeing the area in heavy rain. At least five people were hospitalised.

Masonry fell from inside the basilica and convent complex of St. Francis of Assisi, which had already suffered damage in last month's tremors.

Father Nicola Giandomenico, a spokesman for the basilica, told Reuters a hole had appeared on one of the tympanums of the upper side wall of the historic upper part of the basilica.

A tympanum is the recessed triangular space between a sloping roof and the vertical walls of a building.

Fra Giandomenico said cracks had also appeared in several walls of the complex and that parts of a ceiling of a room in the convent part of the complex, first damaged in last month's quake, collapsed.

There was no apparent damage to the lower part of the basilica, where St. Francis is buried.

Cracks were seen in the pavement just outside the basilica.

"It is no longer a question of the magnitude of the earthquakes, the problem is the length of time they're going on," Giulio de Giovanni, an architect for the *Ministry of Culture in* Rome, told Reuters television outside the basilica.

Apart from the three big quakes that have hit the area since Sept. 25, there have been dozens of minor tremors and aftershocks.

"We cannot do any work today, we cannot enter the building, the only thing we can do is look from the outside at the fresh damage," he said.

The entire city centre of Assisi was closed off and reporters and television cameramen were told they could enter only at their own risk.

Several houses in the Marche region already damaged by the quakes that first struck the area last month collapsed or suffered more damage. Several railway bridges were also slightly damaged. Some railway lines and electricity service was cut in several areas.

A loud rumble was heard in the town of Foligno, 15 kilometres west of Colfiorito, and bits of masonry fell from a bell tower that was badly damaged by the previous quakes.

People left homeless from the first quakes and living in tents in the areas woke up in panic after the first quake Monday.

Eleven people were killed on the first day of the quakes on Sept. 26 and around 150 were reported injured in 48 villages and towns in the Appennine Mountains.

An estimated 130,000 people are still sleeping in cars, caravans and tents, either unable or afraid to return to their shattered homes.

Some 600 buildings of historic importance have been damaged in the Marche region, east of Assisi, alone.

# *Japan may announce N. Korean food aid this week*

TOKYO (R) — In a possible breakthrough *in relations,* Japan may announce this week that it will join other nations in sending food aid to famine-hit North Korea, government sources said Tuesday.

The sources said the announcement, involving about $27 million in aid, may be made after a cabinet meeting Thursday.

They said a food aid decision had been delayed because of opposition from some members of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP).

"Hurdles are being cleared. I believe the government will make the announcement soon, possibly Thursday this week," one source said.

*The Socialist Democrats and* the small Sakigake Party that form a loose alliance with the LDP have urged the government to send food aid.

Japan gave $6 million in "humanitarian food aid to North Korea through the United Nations in June 1996 but since then has held back from joining nations like the United States in sending more aid as North Korea's famine worsened from two consecutive years of record floods.

Citing alleged abductions of Japanese citizens by North Korean agents, some LDP legislators had blocked the government from extending food aid to the reclusive Stalinist *state.*

The LDP politicians, however, dropped their opposition to the food aid scheme after Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi promised to ask the United Nations to set up a panel to investigate the alleged abductions, a source said.

Japan alleges that North Korea abducted at least 10 *Japanese in the 1970s and* 1980s.

Japanese intelligence sources said the kidnapped victims may have been put to work giving Japanese language training to North Korean agents so they could travel as Japanese nationals to carry out espionage activities or sabotage attacks.

North Korea has dismissed *the kidnap allegations.*

Tokyo had also cited North Korea's refusal to let Japanese women living in the Stalinist state visit their homeland as another reason why it would not send food aid to Pyongyang.

There are an estimated 1,800 Japanese wives who moved with their spouses to North Korea between 1959 and 1982.

Most of the Japanese women, whose Korean husbands are descendants of Koreans who moved or were brought to Japan before World War II, have not been heard from for years.

# Blue skies return to Singapore

SINGAPORE (R) — Singapore glimpsed blue skies for the first time in almost two months Tuesday and the country's environment minister said he was hopeful South East Asia's smog pollution would gradually recede.

The Pollutants Standard Index (PSI), which measures air pollution, had fallen to a moderate range by early morning and by 6 p.m. (0800 GMT) stood at 56. Levels of 101 and above are considered unhealthy.

The improved weather coincided with the first parliamentary session on the environment since the arrival of the smog, caused by out-of-control forest and bush fires in neighbouring Indonesia.

Environment Minister Yeo Cheow Tong told parliament the country's air quality was unlikely to deteriorate much further and said the smog, which Singapore officials call "haze", should gradually disappear.

"While it is possible the 24-hour PSI may exceed the 200-mark on some days, the likelihood of the PSI entering the hazardous range of 301 to 400 or even persisting above 200 is low, based on air quality trends and other informa*tion that we have so far.*" Mr. Yeo said.

"Given the ongoing efforts in Indonesia to control the raging fires, we would hope that the current situation will not take an unexpected turn for the worse between now and November, when the northeast monsoon is expected to set in and end the threat of smoke haze."

Singapore's meteorological service issued a two-week weather forecast Tuesday predicting some wet periods but "below average rainfall" for the rest of October.

"The haze condition, however, is expected to ease gradually, though brief periods with moderate haze will still recur in Singapore when the wind reverts to the southeast or southwest," it said in a statement.

Mr. Yeo said Singapore was helping Indonesia fight fires in Sumatra and Kalimantan, which, he said, were 80 per cent due to the clearance of forests for plantations and 20 per cent caused by traditional slash-and-burn farming.

The Singapore armed forces sent a C130 transport plane to Indonesia Monday to help stop the fires and have also assisted Jakarta by sending smoke-monitoring equipment.

Mr. Yeo said the best way to eradicate the smog was to put out the fires and said Singapore and other members of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) were offering Indonesia any assistance it needed, including helping with cloud seeding to encourage rain.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Burma, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

# Mir to try undocking after tracing fault

MOSCOW (R) — The crew of Russia's Mir space station have found out why they failed to undock a progress cargo craft Monday and would make another attempt at noon GMT Tuesday, a mission control spokeswoman said.

If the Progress M-35 cargo craft is uncoupled successfully, then the new cargo ship Progress M-36 will dock with Mir Wednesday at 1625 GMT, exactly one day later than originally planned, she said by telephone.

"The reason behind the failure of the undocking attempt was a locking device *which had not been* removed," the spokeswoman said. "They did not even need to open the hatches of Progress. The operation was conducted through the Kvant Module."

The three-man Russian-U.S. crew spotted the problem while observing the cargo craft from the Kvant science module during the *night. Russian NTV televi*sion said the locking device had been set to manual rather than automatic mode.

The Progress M-35, now just a high-tech rubbish bin, should have undocked to make way for Progress M-36, which left earth Sunday with supplies for Mir's crew and was initially due to hook up with the space station at 1642 GMT Tuesday.

It was a collision between an earlier Progress tug and Mir on June 25 which punctured the Spektr science module and set off a series of mishaps aboard the ageing space complex.

The problems have raised questions about the station's future and U.S. cooperation with the Russians in space.

Just hours after returning to earth aboard the U.S. shuttle Atlantis Monday from a 4-1/2-month mission on Mir, astronaut Michael Foale said his commander blamed himself for the crash.

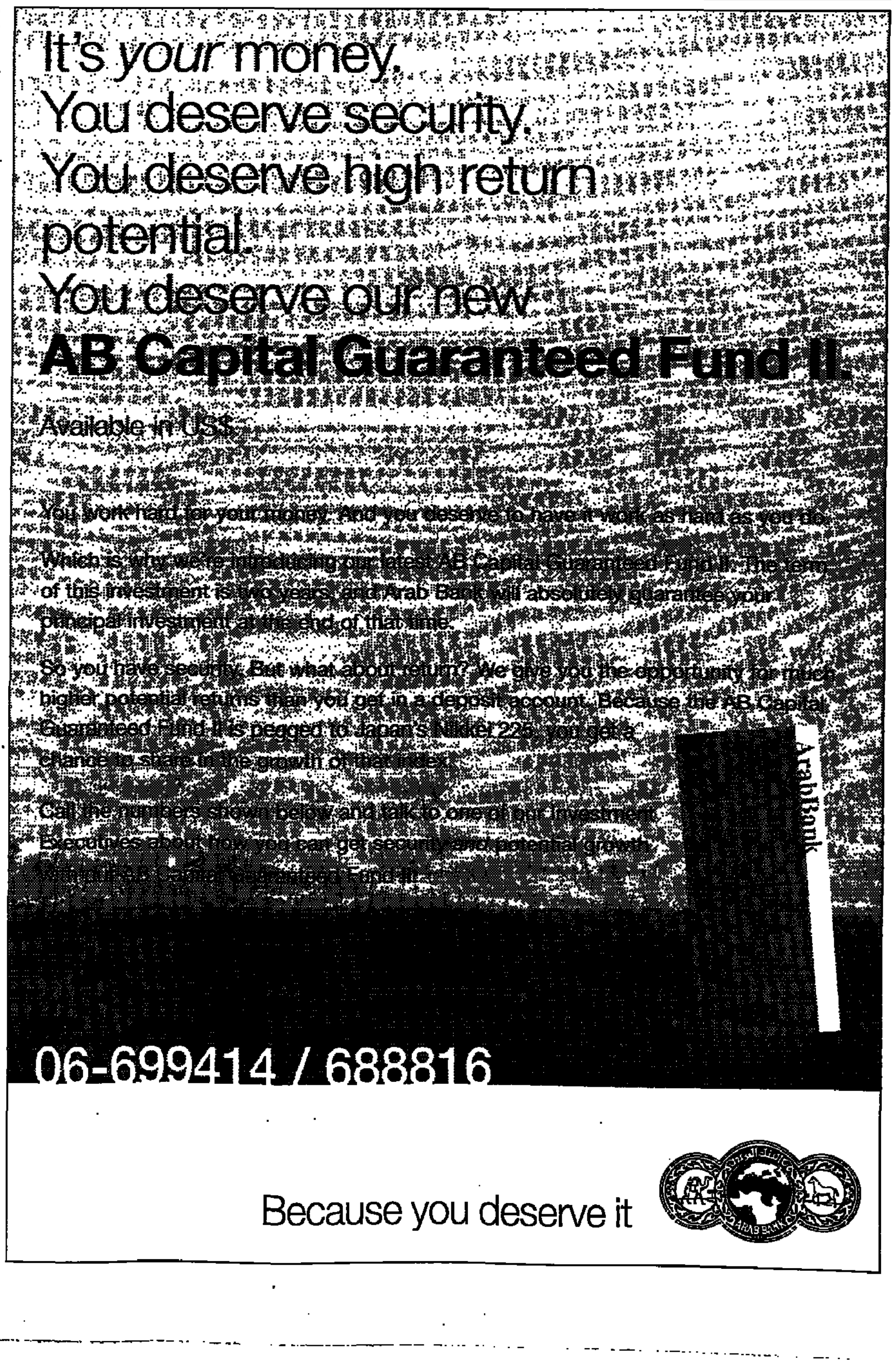
In an emotional interview broadcast by NASA and monitored in Florida, Foale said the most memorable experience of his mission came in July when the Mir commander at the time, Vasily Tsibliyev, realised an irregular heartbeat would prevent him from making a spacewalk to begin repairs on Spektr module.

A weary-looking Foale struggled to explain Tsibliyev's feelings: "He felt responsible for the whole accident, which I don't quite feel..." His words choked by emotion, Foale was unable to go on. "No, this is too hard to talk about."

*Tsibliyev was initially* blamed by some Russian officials for the collision, the worst accident in Mir's 11-year history. The cosmonaut was steering the Progress craft by remote control when it hit the station and punctured Spektr's air-tight hull.

An inquiry reported last week the crash was caused by a several factors and did not hold Tsibliyev responsible.

The new Progress M-36 waiting to dock with Mir is carrying fuel, oxygen, water and scientific equipment for the crew.



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# Can Israel learn lesson?

**AFTER THE dust settles over the foiled attempt in Amman last week on the life of Hamas leader Khaled Misha'al by a group of Mossad agents and the ensuing package to swap two Israeli agents caught in the attack for the release of Jordanian and Palestinian prisoners incarcerated in Israeli prisons, it would be opportune to take stock of the dramatic turn of events that we have just witnessed. All the parties involved should be called upon to contain and assess the damage that was done, or use the positive change that has come out of it, in a bid to serve the ultimate goal of achieving peace and stability in this part of the world.**

**The balance sheet for Misha'al-Gate, as the botched operation has come to be called by some, has yet to be fully drawn. On the plus side, the very life of Misha'al was saved, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, the spiritual leader of Hamas, was freed from Israeli incarceration and repatriated to his homeland and scores of Jordanian and Palestinians were freed or promised freedom from jails in Israel. Above all, though, Israel will never again threaten Jordanian security and sovereignty, as its prime minister tried to do in ordering the attack in Amman.**

**True, Jordan has freed in return the two Mossad agents who were captured, thanks to the heroic effort of Misha'al's driver, the "unknown soldier." But, even in regaining the return of its agents Israel emerged from the incident severely wounded, no thanks to Benyamin Netanyahu's reckless policies. The price that Jordan has had to pay is indeed manageable in comparison to the kind of concessions extracted from Israel, including the antidote medicine that saved Misha'al's life, and containing the political ramifications that could have got out of hand totally.**

**Now all the parties need to turn their attention to even greater issues that aim to serve the cause of peace in the Middle East.**

***The U.S.-brokered Palestinian-Israeli talks which* resumed after a hiatus of several months were off to a good start Monday when the two sides reached agreement to launch eight different committees mandated to find ways and means to implement the 1995 interim self-rule accords. These committees aim first and foremost to work out the implementation of Israeli commitments under the Oslo agreements including the overdue redeployment of *Israeli troops in the West Bank*, operating air and sea ports in Gaza, the opening of a safe passage route connecting the Gaza Strip to the rest of the self-rule areas and the freeing of Palestinian prisoners.**

**Let us hope that the Israeli government has learnt its lesson, not only from the botched assassination attempt but also from its attempts to derail negotiations with its Palestinian partners, so that a new chapter could begin in the history of peace-making and reconciliation between our peoples.**

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**Al Ra'i's** Sultan Al Hatab has advocated the cause of the private universities in Jordan saying that they save the Kingdom a fortune by opening their doors to students who find no place in the state universities. Hatab said the private institutions prevent a drain of badly needed hard currency for the country's development. He added that these universities do not receive equal attention from the Council of Higher Education as do the state universities and are not represented in that council whose members are all presidents of state universities. The writer said the private universities, whose total estimated investment in the Kingdom is nearly JD300 million, have been attracting students from various Arab and Islamic countries, and their good reputation prompted Egypt and other countries to open the way for private universities of their own. According to Hatab, the Council of Higher Education allows students with a 50 per cent average tawjihi score to study abroad and come back with degrees enabling them to get jobs, but impose a strict condition on private universities in Jordan, requiring students have a 65 per cent average tawjihi score to enrol. He said Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali, who himself served as president of the state's University of Jordan and who is keen on higher education can interfere and remove obstacles in the way of private university development.

**Al Ra'i's** Tareq Masarweh scoffed at the resumed Israeli-Palestinian negotiations saying they are pointless since the U.S. is not willing to force Israel to comply with the peace accords it had signed with the Arabs. Neither the Israelis nor the Americans are really concerned with reaching a settlement with the Palestinians that would guarantee the return of their lands and rights; and all that the U.S. is driving at is to persuade the Arabs to attend the Doha conference next month and accept Israel which is presumably holding peace negotiations with the Palestinians, Masarweh said. He said it is impossible for the Arabs to deal with Netanyahu and his government who commit assassination attempts against a Hamas leader in Amman but on the second day release the overall Hamas leader from jail. This government has no credibility, not only in the eyes of the Arabs but also the Israelis; and therefore, is not to be trusted in peace negotiations, the writer said. He decried the stand of the Arab states whom he said are allowing the U.S. to starve the Iraqi people and impose sanctions on Sudan and Libya and failing to help the Palestinians.

Washington Watch

**By Dr. James Zogby**

# A brutal case of chutzpah

A BRUTAL case of murder in a Washington, DC suburb has developed into an international incident that is causing new strains in the U.S.-Israel relationship.

Two 17-year-old Maryland males have been accused in the murder of Alfredo Tello, 19, also of Maryland.

One of the suspects was arrested in the U.S. The other suspect, Samuel Sheinbein, fled to Israel after the murder. Last week, an Israeli court refused to honour a U.S. extradition request, invoking Israeli law that forbids the extradition of Israeli citizens for trial in other countries.

The Israeli decision has outraged Maryland officials, angered the White House and State Department, and caused the powerful chairman of the Congressional Appropriations Committee to write to Secretary of State Madeleine Albright demanding that pressure be placed on Israel to turn Sheinbein over to U.S. authorities.

The committee chairman wrote:

"It is an outrage that Israeli authorities are refusing to extradite Sheinbein... furthermore, the youth's father and older brother should also be returned, since it appears they may have a role in hindering the investigation by helping Sheinbein flee the country.

"In the absence of a resolution, I intend to introduce the issues into consideration of the Foreign Operations spending bill."

The murder itself was gruesome, and the evidence that has been released in the daily papers seems quite clear.

On Sept. 19, Maryland police found a badly burned and dismembered body in the garage of a vacant home in suburban Washington.

Three days later, Sept. 22, police issued warrants for the arrests of two young men: Benyamin Needles and Samuel Sheinbein.

On Sept. 23, Needles was arrested, but the search continued for Sheinbein. At that point, police revealed that they were led to suspect the two young men by a strong trail of evidence that led directly to them.

- Sheinbein's home was around the corner from the garage where the body had been found;
- A trail of blood led from Sheinbein's home to the garage;
- Numerous witnesses saw Sheinbein and Needles pulling a cart with blue plastic covering from Sheinbein's house to the vacant garage;
- Sheinbein had called the owner of the vacant house asking for the key to enter it;
- In Sheinbein's garage police found materials similar to those used to burn the body, plastic bags similar to those which were found covering the body, and an empty box for the electrical saw used to cut the arms and legs from the victim's body.

The limbs have not been found yet, and the torso was so badly burned that police were unable to identify the victim until Sept. 24.

Alfred Tello, the victim, was a friend of Needles and Sheinbein. He had last been seen on September 16, leaving work with his two "friends."

As clear as the case seems to be, it was dealt a severe blow when on Sept. 28, it was reported that Sheinbein had flown to Israel, apparently to escape arrest.

After some negotiations, Maryland officials appeared confident that Sheinbein would return voluntarily to the U.S. to face trial. But on Sept. 25, Sheinbein took an overdose of drugs and had to be hospitalised in Israel. Upon leaving the hospital, the Israelis arrested Sheinbein. He is in custody in a psychiatric unit.

On Sept. 28, Israeli authorities notified the U.S. that they would refuse to extradite Sheinbein and will, instead, try him in Israel as an Israeli citizen. In announcing the decision, an Israeli Ministry of Justice spokesperson said: "An investigation has been opened to put him on trial here. He cannot be extradited. He was an Israeli citizen when the crime was committed."

It is not only the Israeli refusal to extradite Sheinbein that has caused public outrage in the U.S.: it is also the basis of Sheinbein's so-called Israeli citizenship and his family's obvious use of this loophole to avoid prosecution in the U.S.

Sheinbein is considered an Israeli citizen because his father was born in British Mandatory Palestine in 1944. The father emigrated to the U.S. in 1950 and has lived there ever since. Samuel Sheinbein was born in 1980 in the U.S. He has never lived in Israel and speaks no Hebrew.

Americans seeking to avoid trial in the U.S. have used this Israeli law before. In 1987, for example, two American Jews who murdered an Arab American couple in California fled to Israel. As "Israeli citizens" they were tried and sentenced to prison in Israel. Similarly, FBI officials have told Arab Americans that the murderers of the Arab American activist Alex Odeh are also living in an Israeli settlement in the West Bank where they fled to avoid extradition.

As if to establish the obvious intent of this ploy, Sheinbein's Israeli lawyer has been quoted as saying, "my client prefers the Israeli justice system to that of the U.S. and he prefers the conditions of Israel's prisons as well."

If convicted in the U.S. Sheinbein faces the death penalty. In Israel, he would only serve 25 years in prison.

At the same time Sheinbein's lawyers have begun an effort to claim their client acted in self-defence — a bizarre claim given the condition of the victim.

On the other hand, Sheinbein's lawyers have recently been quoted as saying that their client might agree to return to the U.S. voluntarily "if the U.S. courts will make us a better deal."

By the end of last week, what had begun as a local murder had become a diplomatic crisis. The Appropriations Committee chairman reported that his plan to punish Israel had won strong support from his colleagues. Other congressional members, as have the White House and State Department, have spoken out calling on Israel to extradite. And the Israeli embassy in Washington reported that it has been bombarded by angry phone calls.

The last word out of Israel is that the Israeli government is taking a second look at the "citizen" issue. Said one Israeli official: "Sheinbein may not be a citizen after all."

# LETTERS

## *Sympathy belies agenda*

**To the Editor:**

THE SWEET reasoning of Donna Arzt (Jordan Times, Oct. 5, 1994) is no more than old wine in new but cracked bottles.

*The old wine is the cardinal rule of Zionism, first postulated by Herzl* and applied diligently by Ben Gurion, Rabin, Sharon and Netanyahu, namely the "transfer" of the Palestinians away from their home in order to make true the myth: "A land without people."

The sympathy shown by Arzt for the plight of the refugees is belied by the destiny she has in store for them. She proposes the "final solution" for the Palestinian people by settling them anywhere in the world except in their homes in Palestine. If the last 50 years have taught us anything, it is the Palestinians, not the Jews, who have nowhere to live, or wish to live anywhere else except in Palestine.

Although she tries hard to tear herself away from the bondage of her background, Arzt does not succeed. According to her CV, she is Jewish-American, eligible for Israeli citizenship, and a member of many Israeli law-related societies. More importantly, she has been an activist in facilitating Russian immigration to Israel.

Anxious to present her case regarding the difficulty of the refugees' return to their homes, Arzt is careless with the truth. She omits the unregistered refugees, and freely interprets the figures of the U.S. Bureau when quoted in her book "Refugees into Citizens." More reliable figures for 1997 are: Total refugees: 4,942,000 of which 3,600,000 are registered with UNRWA. Total Palestinians: 7,788,000.

The worst part is that her proposal for the "final solution" of the refugees is none other than "the notorious transfer plan of the Israeli right-wing." In a detailed analysis of her proposal in Al Hayat (Aug. 6, 1997), it is shown that she proposes the transfer of 690,000 from Gaza, 375,000 from Jordan, 407,000 from Lebanon and 56,000 from Syria. Where do they go? Apart from 844,000 admitted to the West Bank (mostly displaced persons after 1967), the rest is supposed to be shipped equally to the Arabian Peninsula and the world, anywhere from Alaska to Sydney. Even the presumed token admission of 75,000 to Israel (out of 5 million), turns out to be a transfer of 14,000 out of Israel. I am glad to say that the Gulf Cooperation Council has categorically rejected the proposal of settling the refugees there, as advocated by the (American) Council on Foreign Relations according to Arzt's plan.

The myth that the return of the refugees will create demographic and legal havoc should be exploded. The return of the refugees is not only sacred to them, legal in the eyes of the world (with the exception of the obvious two), but it is also quite feasible and desirable to avert new war. In a London conference, I have shown that the return of all the refugees will cause no dislocation of the Jews and relocation of only 153,000. This is done by demographic analysis of 41 natural regions in Israel. The full text is in the Internet site: Palestine Refugees Research Network (PRRN). Furthermore, analyses have shown that the pursuit of agriculture by the refugees on their land will not cause any financial hardship to Israel, on *the contrary it will enhance its economy. The study of water requirements* for the total population showed that the quantity is enough when the refugees return, but it will cause a new war if they do not and the Russians are admitted instead.

Arzt refers to unidentified Palestinian officials and others who profess that the return is "not possible." If she refers to PNA officials, let it be remembered that, if their record and performance is any guidance of their credibility, Oslo agreements affect only 13 per cent of the Palestinians. The absolute majority wish to return home, a basic and simple human right. Just ask any refugee at Baqa'a Camp. A truncated Palestinian state, if peddled as a substitute to home coming, is of no interest at all.

The truth of the matter is that the much tooted Israeli security is a euphemism for the retention of the vast material gains made during Israel's conquests. Israel's insistence on Jewish purity on the territory it conquered flies in the face of the most elementary of human rights. Israel cannot remain an island in a world which exchanges trade and ideas and advocates decent human values.

Spurious scholarship is frequently used to perpetuate the geographical genocide of a people. Scholarship should be used to promote decent values such as human rights. The most basic human right is the right to live in your own home.

**Dr. S. H. Abu-Sitta**
**P.O. Box 25078**
**Safat 13111**
**Kuwait**

## *SPANA deserves praise*

**To the Editor:**

I WISH to write in recognition and praise for the Jordanian Society for the Protection of Animals who Friday sped from a mission in Salt to the mercy of a puppy in Amman's First Circle who, having been hit by a car, was being goaded by school boys with sticks when I happened to chance by in my car and consequently broke up what they saw as "having a bit of fun." The society offers their services under the name of SPANA, and luckily I was able to phone them promptly, having decided from my last similar experience to always have their number with me.

For all of us drivers, not only do we hold responsibility for the safekeeping of ourselves, passengers, other drivers and pedestrians on the roads, but also for the animals who live among us.

If we are to stumble across a situation such as this, and feel hopeless as to what to do but to drive on and ignore it completely — please don't, as help is at hand at SPANA, and it only takes a fraction of an hour out of your busy day.

Therefore setting an example to passers-by that we are a civilised caring people who respect the well-being of nature not able to communicate to us, who are utterly at our mercy at these moments.

Then, you may telephone SPANA (hours 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. — thereafter call a local veterinarian). Within an hour three veterinary surgeons came to the aid of the puppy who I had placed under a tree, and they gave a sensitive assessment of the injuries. If there was any hope she would be taken away for medical treatment to their headquarters located immediately beyond Wadi Seer on the way to Iraq Al Amir on the left side of the main road.

I was horrified to see children old enough to know better hounding this puppy, and I believe such behaviour is not compatible with the teachings of the Koran. Thanks to SPANA's educational programme schoolchildren are being taught about the care of and prevention of cruelty to animals.

Sadly the puppy had to be put to sleep, but instead of suffering days of misery to an inevitable death, she left this world in caring arms, peacefully and within minutes. SPANA depends largely on donations.

Their telephone number is 865451, P.O. Box 141697, Amman 11814, Jordan.

I was filled with relief and thanks that professional help in Dr. Arafat and his two assistants had found their way so swiftly, acting promptly and caringly.

**Pia Kanaan**
**Amman**

## *Killing the Dead Sea*

**To the Editor:**

IT MAY be true that Jordan offers several spots of exquisite natural beauty, but what is painfully true are the limited means available to enjoy them.

A group of us decided to take our children to enjoy what should be one of the wonders of the world — the Dead Sea — and to our wonder the outing was limited to a 110 kilometres of back-and-forth in the car — and seven disappointed faces.

Our aim was the private hotel at the beach, but as we approached the entrance we were accosted by four security guards who were not looking for dangerous weapons but for clean healthy sandwiches, which are obviously considered alien to the premises. After being denied entrance for not letting go of our bag of crisps, I have the following to say to the management.

Firstly, based on previous stomach-aching experiences it is a mother's instinct and prerogative to be selective in what she feeds her two-year-old child. Secondly, surely JD10 per person should cover the expense of using the hotel's facility for four hours, and one should not feel obliged to eat the food offered at the premises. Thirdly, had the hotel food been of edible standard, one would rather not bring his/her own food all the way from home, because if anyone can afford to pay JD10 to enter, it is evident that money is not an issue.

Still young and resourceful as we are, we felt that we lost the battle but not the war, so we turned our car around to find another option — or should I say the other option — only to discover that the facility is inappropriate for a family wishing to indulge in the therapeutic waters of the Dead Sea which compels one to be in a swimming suit!

Finally, and equally frustrating, is that all the tourism development in the area is restricted to five-star resorts catering to foreign tourists and the few elite who can afford paying the minimum JD70 daily charge for a family of four to recreate on the beach! It would be a refreshing change if a clean stretch of beach with showers and changing rooms could be offered to picnicking families at a reasonable fee!

**Laura Srouji Khoury**
**Amman**

# Censurable censorship

**By Ali Kassay**

One of the greatest pleasures of going abroad is returning to our fair and gentle land, where, no matter what else may be happening in the world, you know that no harm will come to you. From the moment you land in the airport, you are immediately suffused by the warm glow that only comes from the full knowledge that your physical and moral safety are protected with circumspect vigil.

One of the precautions that are taken to preserve your moral rectitude, for instance, is the process of relieving you upon arrival from any audio or audio-visual material that may have added themselves to your possessions in the land of the licentious infidels. Such material is then carefully vetted by the Press and Publications Department to ensure that they are fit for heroes' eyes and ears, during which process any salacious material is eliminated and *destroyed*.

Of course, we all know that there is no length to which the perfidious imperialists would not go in order to undermine our chastity. Therefore the strictest definition is applied in censoring any prurient material, such as my sister's video collection of Jane Fonda's aerobic exercises.

All this came up in a conversation I had recently with a friend who deals in computers, both hard and software. Every time she receives a batch of software on CDs, which she has flown in by courier for speed, no amount of talk about the communication age, the information highway, the Internet, or satellite communications can make our guardians relent in their vigil.

Every time she has to stand helpless while the CDs are wrapped tightly in a packet, secured with packing tape which is then signed and sealed to ensure that it is not tampered with, and taken away for a couple of weeks. At the end of this *period she goes to claim her* parcel, which is frequently given to her with the surrounding tape as yet undisturbed.

This tale of woe brought back to me my experience when I returned to Jordan from graduate studies in political science. Of course I had in my possession trunks full of books ranging from Plato's Republic to twentieth century biographies and other publications in my field, none of which aroused anybody's interest. What needed scrutiny was my collection of audio cassettes.

I tried to reason with them that this collection contained nothing but music, with not a hint of groping, sighing, nor orgasmic noises, but they stood their ground firmly. The law is the law, and it must *apply to all*, they assured me, and I confess that I could not argue with this logic.

On that occasion, their search was well rewarded. They discovered that my collection contained one cassette whose existence had slipped my *memory*, which had political material recorded on it. This, they felt, was too sensitive to be left floating in irresponsible hands, and they confiscated the cassette.

What was this material? You might well ask. What species of subversive mendacity was Ali smuggling into the country, from which the innocent and unsuspecting needed to be protected ? The material in question was .... wait for it ... a radio interview with the then prime minister of Jordan.

# 'Low pay, status keep male teachers in the minority'

By Richard Tanner

DR. AHMAD Majdoubeh calls for more male teachers in the early years of schooling (Jordan Times, Sept. 25-26, 1997). Whistling in the wind, I'd say. If Jordan follows the West, he'll be calling for more male teachers at all levels.

Teaching is regarded as one of the poorer of the professions: "Those who can, do; those who can't teach." I have a second niece in teacher training because she can't find a job in Britain; the first niece left after one year to work for Mars at nearly double the salary as a training officer.

In times of high unemployment, teaching gains recruits. Now that unemployment rates have tumbled to 5.6 per cent, Britain cannot fill its teacher training slots. It never has in math and science, music or technology despite additional payments to trainees, and now that deficit position has spread to all subjects. And women trainees outnumber men by almost three to one. How many of these men do you think are training as infant teachers?

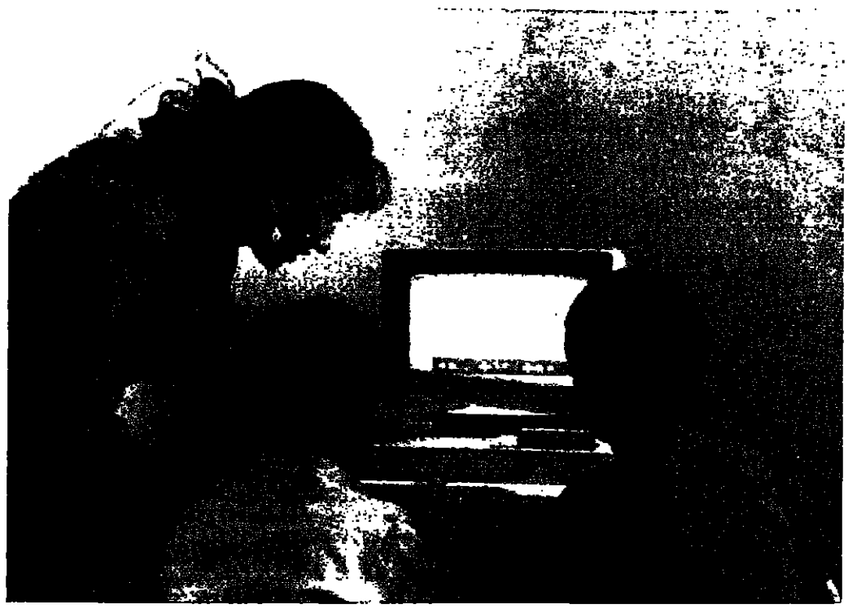
Not only is the gender balance missing in infant schools, there are not many men in junior schools either. Most of them are older and in senior positions; indeed, one complaint is that women teachers, dominant in numbers, are ruled by men head teachers.

How does such a situation come about? Men are put off teaching by its low pay and status. Few are prepared to accept the drudgery of the classroom. No longer do the long holidays compensate for the low pay as everyone gets six weeks off a year. The short hours have grown with all the additional paperwork while others have shrunk. Vocation seems to have died; one is not respected as a teacher so men simply don't join the profession. Careers teachers must have an impact; one wonders how many would recommend teaching as a career.

I certainly didn't recommend either of my daughters to teach, though one did (having done poorly at A-level) and has made an excellent junior teacher. For women, lower paid and less ambitious (I'm afraid), teaching is convenient. They can bring up their children, enjoy school holidays together, and it's "safe." They tend not to want promotion, wise things, so the men end up as their head teachers. Even those stereotypes are breaking down under hidden pressures of female equality and overt pressures of modern teaching (see Times Educational supplement 12/9/97). Women are leaving teaching to bring their children (as my daughters has done) as it's impossible to do justice to both.

Of course, the situation in Jordan is different. Here there is high unemployment, teaching is no worse a white-collar job than many others, with shorter working days and longer holidays. The pressures are not on teachers to be top performers, accountable to head teachers, parents and governors. Men are employed far more than women, so there is gender imbalance only in infant schools.

But how long will this stay the case? Already, in the school where I teach, men are in a minority of one to two. There are none in kindergarten and only 4 of 36 in junior school, few more in middle school. Things are almost even in senior school, but nearly all the senior posts are occupied by females, apart from a bloc of expatriate male teachers. Every head of school is female, the principal too, supported by an expatriate deputy in each case.



A teacher in the Baqaa camp instructs students in computer skills (file photo)

Once such gender imbalance occurs in a school or profession, the minority declines. As it becomes more and more strange for a man to be a teacher, so fewer and fewer come forward. This is the new situation in Britain where the latest baby boom is going to be taught by females at least to age 11 and probably until university. One school in Jordan already mirrors that pattern. Of course, it's a mixed school, and so long as Jordan's schools stay single-sex, the problem won't arise. Or will it? I was taught in a boys' grammar school by an all-male staff; now, similar schools in England, despite their high status; have to recruit female teachers. As the older generation of teachers in Britain bows out — my generation — the mass of male teachers will go, to be replaced by whom? British Prime Minister Tony Blair wants to put the heart back into education, to put teachers alongside doctors and lawyers as the third great profession. I wish him luck. If he succeeds, and 80 per cent of teacher trainees come from the top 20 per cent of graduates, then perhaps men will return to teaching. I can't see many appearing in the early years programmes, as Dr. Majdoubeh hopes, but the message for Jordan is there: good schools depend on good teachers; quite a number of those should be male; status and pay, probably in that order, need to be improved to stop the flight of the best, male or female.

*The writer, an ex-principal of a British school, is now teaching at Amman Baccalaureate School. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.*

# Beeper seals shed light on underwater life-style

By Bertrand Lemonnier
*Agence France-Presse*

BREST, France — Satellite tracking of four young seals fitted with electronic beepers, has given scientists their first insight into the mysterious underwater life of these sea mammals.

Up until now, researchers could only observe the seals when they were near the coast or resting on rocks. Nothing was known about how deep the seals could dive, what distances they covered and how they learned to hunt for food.

The four seals who had been cared for since last winter by a marine mammal clinic in the Oceanopolis centre in the Brittany port of Brest, were equipped with the Argos signalling device before being freed in June into their natural element off the northwest coast of France.

The seals' subsequent movements in the Irish Sea, the English Channel and the North Atlantic Ocean were monitored by scientists in Brest and by their British counterparts of the Sea Mammal Research Unit in Saint Andrews in Scotland who conceived the project.

Presenting what he called "very provisional" results of the survey, Vincent Ranoux who is in charge of the sea mammals department at Oceanopolis, said that even ascertaining these facts about seal movements would have been "previously unimaginable".

In a little over two months, the seals had migrated from the Isle of Wight off southern England, along the coast of Ireland and back to the Molene Islands off the Brittany coast.

He said it had been determined precisely that the seals had dived to a depth of 133 metres but he said "more detailed study of the data was needed to determine how far they had travelled and how many times they had surfaced."

Researchers who are intrigued to find out how young animals learn to hunt to feed themselves watched this experiment closely since these four seals had only been fed by man.

One of the seals died for unknown reasons shortly after being released and was found without its beacon device, Ranoux said. But this was "in no way alarming" because "in their natural habitat, 50 per cent of seals die before the age of one."

The public has taken a great interest in these lively, playful mammals, with some 150,000 people visiting a temporary summer exhibition devoted to them at Oceanopolis. An Internet site was also opened to track their progress.

It will take time before researchers know how and why such "inexperienced" seals could cover the southwest English coasts in eight days of swimming as well as join Irish, Welsh, Cornish and Breton colonies.

# Dutch becoming a 'nation of giants,' experts say

By Rene Biagi
*Agence France Presse*

THE HAGUE — The Dutch are already among the tallest people on earth and will be a nation of "giants" by the middle of the next century if their height continues to increase at present rates, experts here say.

"The average height of the Dutch today is 183 centimetres for men and 169.6 for women, which makes them the tallest in Europe, ahead of the Danes, and puts them among the tallest in the world," said Machteld Roede, a researcher at Maastsricht University in the southeast Netherlands.

"Six per cent of the Dutch population of 15 million, that is 850,000 of them, are more than 193 centimetres for men and 183 centimetres for women, and one in every 1,000 Dutch youngsters is more than 2.00 metres tall," she said.

"At this rate, the Dutch will be more than 2.00 metres tall on average by the middle of the next century," said Dr. Roede who studied the heights of 50,000 of her compatriots in her survey.

But being too tall in a world designed for smaller people, has its drawbacks.

Towering Rob Bruintjes has formed a "Tall People's Club" with the goal of calling attention to the problems faced by tall people who have to bend their bodies to fit cramped seats in cars and aircraft and on public transport and who find that standard chairs and tables are too low.

"I want to encourage architects, dress designers and air and train services particularly, to adjust their norms to the height of Dutch people today," he told AFP.

He said finding a pair of shoes or a suit to fit required an "expedition."

"Imagine how cramped the Dutch people feel sitting for hours in small aircraft seats built for 'small people' of 170 cms (five foot six inches)," he said.

"Apartments are still designed according the norms of the 1950s whereas the population has been growing taller by an average of two to three centimetres every ten years since 1955, statistics show," he said.

The Bruintjes foundation whose members have to be "at least" 190 cms for men and 180 cms for women, already has 1,600 members.

Mr. Bruitjes said he hoped that one day there would be a "European federation grouping tall peoples' clubs in countries like Denmark, Austria, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland or Britain particularly."

According to Dr. Roede, the average height of the Dutch began to grow in the second half of the 19th century after remaining stable during the three previous centuries.

"The archives tell us that in 1865, army conscripts measured 165 centimetres which was the average height of Dutch males over the previous three centuries," she said.

"This conclusion was drawn after studying the skeletons of Dutch whale hunters of the 17th and 18th centuries, found perfectly preserved in the ice on Spitzberg, or the bodies of monks exhumed from church crypts," she said.

"But in the second half of the 19th century the Dutch began to get taller," said Dr. Roede who explained that the phenomenon was generally attributed to "better food, health and living standards".

"All the studies showed that the increase in height, accompanied by a harmonious weight development, was a characteristic of the well-to-do classes," Dr. Roede said.

"In the poorer classes, people were smaller and heavier and this goes for other parts of the world," she said.

"However, in some countries, a levelling out of social classes has reduced these differences in height or even eradicated them like in Denmark."

In the Netherlands, despite its goal of an egalitarian society, Dr. Roede said there remained a slight difference between the heights of the rich and the less rich.

"Dutch researchers found, like their foreign colleagues, that increase in height was mainly due to longer legs in the populations studied," she said.

"It is a trend common to all races," she said, noting that between 1957 and 1977, the legs of Japanese children had grown by about 10 centimetres.

# Infectious diseases: the end of immunity

By Gwynne Dyer

HUMAN DISEASES have evolved in the past, and we are helping them evolve in the present. Which is why our grandchildren may face the same risks from infectious diseases as our grandparents.

A year ago, we got good news about AIDS. A cocktail of three drugs, including new "protease inhibitors," was restoring even people with full-blown AIDS to normal health — provided that they could come up with $25,000 per year, and follow the complicated regime of pill-taking and dietary restrictions that was involved.

There was more rejoicing in San Francisco and London than in Kampala and Bombay, but soon two things started to go wrong even in the richest places.

"The hype about protease drugs has given many people false hope," explained Janet Darbyshire of the British Medical Research Council's HIV Clinical Trials Centre at the end of last year. "As a result, there is a serious risk that some may give up safe sex because they think there is nothing left to worry about...."

Worse yet, the HIV virus that causes AIDS was mutating into new strains. "It is very worrying," said Dr. Robert Gallo of the Institute of Human Virology in Baltimore last December. "The most recent information... suggests that between 20 and 30 per cent of patients are now infected with viruses resistant to protease inhibitors." Now the evidence is in, and the news is bad.

In early August, the New England Journal of Medicine reported on a small-scale survey of gay men in San Francisco. "Recent advances in treatment are affecting the sexual decision-making" of uninfected gays; it concluded: a quarter of those polled said that they were "less concerned about becoming HIV-positive" because of the new drugs, and a further 13 per cent affirmed that they were "more willing to take a chance of getting infected when having sex."

Bad news does not travel fast enough — because August also brought solid evidence that the HIV virus was outwitting the researchers. "There is an increasing percentage of people in whom, after a period of time, the virus breaks through," said Dr. Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in Bethesda, Maryland. "People are quite well for six months, eight months, or a year, and after a while, in a significant proportion, the virus starts to come back."

Dr. Fauci put the cumulative failure rate of protease inhibitor treatments at up to 50 per cent. Since strains of HIV that develop resistance to the new drugs will thrive at the expense of non-resistant strains, the eventual failure rate could be even worse.

This high-speed evolution is very bad news for the more than one million people who will die of AIDS this year. But slower evolutionary processes in other germs and viruses are equally bad news for the 3 million who will die of tuberculosis (TB) around the world this year, or the 2 million who die of malaria, or the million who die of hepatitis B. The bugs are adapting to our drugs, and the way we use our drugs is not helping a bit.

It is new diseases that grab the public's attention, especially the viral haemorrhagic fevers (VHFs) with names straight out of horror movies: Ebola fever, Rift Valley fever, Machupo virus, Sin Nombre fever, and half a dozen more. They are acutely infectious, cause profuse bleeding from the gums, nose, lungs and intestines, and kill from 25 to 80 per cent of those infected.

All these VHFs are borne by animal hosts and have begun affecting human beings because of our growing pressure on animal habitats in even the remotest parts of the world. There is no cure for any of them. But they are rare — you are much likelier to drown in the bath than to catch any of these fevers — and their rapid lethality tends to make outbreaks self-limiting.

The real public-health problem of our time is that some of the old mass killers are making a comeback. Not all of them, mercifully, but the slower-moving diseases are doing very well.

The fast killers, paradoxically, are more vulnerable. The last existing samples of the smallpox virus, now confined to test-tubes, are scheduled for destruction in 1999. A mass immunisation programme in India last year may finally have eradicated polio from the planet (though the World Health Organisation will go on vaccinating in suspect areas for another five years to make sure).

Measles, which only 15 years ago was still killing 3 million children a year, is the next target for global eradication. There are even hopes of ridding the planet of whooping cough, hepatitis and meningitis. But diseases that act slowly, or lie dormant in human hosts for long periods, also have time to develop resistance to our medicines.

A classic example is malaria, where a century of using quinine-based drugs as a prophylactic, in people who did not even have malaria, has fostered the evolution of new strains of quinine-resistant malaria that defy conventional treatment.

Doctors in regions still mostly free of the new strains, like the Amazon, are now giving anti-malaria drugs only to people who actually have malaria, but it is probably too late. In retrospect, it was as stupid as routinely putting low doses of antibiotics into cattle feed (though of course no civilised country would let people act with such criminal irresponsibility for mere profit).

The golden rule is: do not give valuable drugs to people (or cattle) who are not ill. If they are ill, use enough drugs to kill all the bugs. Do not leave any alive to learn by their experiences.

Not observing that rule is how we got TB back. Seventy-five years ago, TB was the greatest killer in urban societies, and then simple antibiotics reduced it to a marginal nuisance. But you must go on taking the drugs for six months to make sure all the TB germs are dead, even though you stop feeling ill long before that.

In millions of cases, people stopped taking antibiotics as soon as they felt better. As a result, we now have strains of TB so drug-resistant that in 1993, the WHO declared a global health emergency, and TB is once again the world's greatest killer.

In half the world's countries you can still buy antibiotics and other life-saving drugs across the counter without a prescription. In the rest, few doctors try to ensure that their prescriptions are used to the last pill. So the global death rate from infectious diseases in 2030 may be closer to that of 1930 than to the present. Pity the grandchildren.

# South Africa's secret society comes out on the web

By Brendan Boyle
*Reuter*

CAPE TOWN — South Africa's most powerful secret society has come out of the closet and onto the Internet.

The men who managed the design and implementation of apartheid have shucked off the cloak of secrecy that was their trademark for more than 60 years.

On a background of oak leaves, the Afrikanerbond's home page on the worldwide web includes a postbox address, a telephone number, a copy of the constitution and a statement of goals.

"This is part of their coming out, but it's only partly real," said Afrikaner journalist Hennie Serfontein, who battled for years to breach the secrecy and probe the heart of the organisation once more powerful than the cabinet.

"For many decades, this organisation had no telephone number, no address. It didn't exist. Now it has a presence and a public face.

"But the thing that still remains secret is the membership list and that's the key to the Afrikanerbond," he said.

The Afrikanerbond is using cutting-edge technology to post its global message. Under white rule, the same organisation managed one of the world's tightest censorship regimes and, for fear of corrupting the nation's morals, denied South Africa television until 1976.

***The few renegades ever willing to talk about the inner workings of the society described a network of power and control that determined the outcome of school and church board elections and the appointment of magistrates and postmasters.***

Officials at the association's Pretoria headquarters politely declined to put Reuters in touch with chairman Tom de Beer, insisting instead that all media inquiries should be dealt with by a media officer, who was out of town for the week. But the association's web page invites electronic correspondence in English or Afrikaans and offers English speakers a synopsis of the information available.

The Afrikanerbond was founded in 1918 as the Afrikaner Broederbond (brotherhood) to promote the interests of the white Afrikaner minority edged out of business and government by the colonial English. Thirty years later, the whites-only Afrikaner National Party ousted Prime Minister Jan Smuts and began to implement the Broederbond's strategy for ethnic supremacy — apartheid.

Prime ministers D.F. Malan, H.F. Verwoerd, John Vorster, P.W. Botha and F.W. de Klerk all rose to power through the ranks of the Broederbond, to which membership was by invitation only.

The few renegades ever willing to talk about the inner workings of the society described a network of power and control that determined the outcome of school and church board elections and the appointment of magistrates and postmasters.

The Broederbond controlled the nomination of national party candidates for safe parliamentary seats, appointments to the cabinet and the selection of prime ministers.

Government policies were crafted by ministers who acknowledged their loyalty to the brotherhood ahead of the country and most were sanctioned by the Broederbond before they were put to the cabinet.

Former "Broeders" even claim to have initiated the political reforms that led to Nelson Mandela's release after 27 years in jail for plotting to overthrow apartheid.

Former Justice Minister Kobie Coetsee, whom Mr. Mandela credits with the successful negotiation of his release, was among the 3,000 Broeders named in the only major leak in 1977.

Analysts believe the membership dropped from around 16,000 to around 12,000 after the Broederbond became the Afrikanerbond in 1994.

**Secrecy hard to shake**

"Some people are still pining for the old days and for the secrecy. Any great transformation anywhere in the world goes hand in hand with uncertainties," Mr. de Beer said in a rare interview last year when asked about the falling membership.

The association now cites among its objectives: "activities with individual Afrikaans speakers, associations, organisations or groups of the Afrikaans community to protect their rights and interests, including economic, social, educational, cultural and religious."

The Afrikanerbond's values include: "integrity, mutual respect... Responsible citizenship... (and) communal love of the fatherland."

The Afrikaans language remains the central pillar of the association, although all references to race and gender have been removed from the constitution.

But Serfontein said he believed the Afrikanerbond had yet to admit a black Afrikaans-speaker or a woman to its ranks.

The Afrikanerbond's website is at: http://www.Icon.Co.Za/(tilde)hannesc/

*'Improvement in trade figures, though not sufficient, means economy is on right track,' official says*

# Trade deficit falls by a record 13.3% in first 8 months of '97

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's foreign trade deficit dropped, during the first eight months of this year, by a record 13.3 per cent, from JD1,161.5 million to JD1,007.1 million, the equivalent of JD154.4 million, newly released figures by Department of Statistics show.

The deficit for August 1997 compared with August 1996 alone shows a drop of 26.1 per cent (from 147.3 million to 108.8 million), according to the figures.

The value of exports for the same eight-month period rose by JD50 million or 7.6 per cent, from JD622.9 million to JD713.2 million.

The growth rate in exports to Arab countries was 19 per cent, with the main partners being the Palestinian National Authority, Iraq, Kuwait, Algeria and Saudi Arabia. Exports to these countries totalled JD250 million. To the Far East markets, the growth rate in exports was 10 per cent. The total export value to Australia rose by an exceptionally high 91 per cent to reach JD11.297 million.

The following export products had the highest growth rate which was 37 per cent for a total value of JD100 million: Animal and plant products, transport parts, pharmaceuticals, chemical detergents, phosphate, clothes and electrical equipment.

As for re-export products, the value has dropped at a rate of 6.4 per cent from JD163 million to JD152 million. The largest drop was in the animal products, chemical products and primary pharmaceutical products, the survey revealed.

According to the statistics, imports have also dropped from JD1,987.6 million to JD1,873.1 million which is JD114.5 million at a rate of 5.8 per cent for the same period. During August 1997, imports fell from JD263.6 million to JD228 million, a drop rate of 13.5 per cent compared to the month of August 1996.

The figures showed that the value of imports from Arab countries fell by JD18 million. From Turkey and South Korea imports dropped by JD20 million and JD20 million at a rate of 30 per cent and 28 per cent respectively. As for imports from Australia, New Zealand, Bulgaria, Romania and Russia there was a drop of JD76 million at the following rates: 74 per cent, 60 per cent, 53 per cent, 69 per cent, 35 per cent respectively.

"These figures demonstrate that the Jordanian economy has been placed on the right track," an official source from the Ministry of Industry and Trade told the Jordan Times. "This has been achieved through a combination of principles and measures which the ministry has adopted in order to contribute to strengthening the economy," the official said. "These comprise committed implementation of the economic reform programme, improvements made to our laws and regulations, adaptation of an open market regime, reduction of expenditures, free pricing, restructuring of the Ministry of Supply, execution of effective export development programmes and the annulment of currency controls."

"Although these achievements fall short of expectations by the private sector, they nevertheless constitute an important step in the right direction and provide for a healthier economy," the official said.

# India raises air fares, rail freight rates

NEW DELHI (AP) — The Indian government has raised domestic air fares and rail freight rates on the railroad network by as much as 16 per cent as it battles to control its budget deficit.

The hike announced Monday night was the third in the last five weeks covering various sectors of the economy.

The government has been under pressure to cut spending and reform an economy nearly strangled by five decades of socialist policies.

A railway ministry press statement said the freight rate increase would help offset a burden of 31 billion rupees ($861 million) imposed by the recent salary raise given to workers and the increase in the price of diesel fuel.

Shippers are likely to pass on the increase in fares to consumers in the form of higher prices for sugar, pulses, edible oil, wheat, fruits and vegetables.

P. C. Sen, chairman of state-run Indian Airlines, said the increase in air fares is "just enough" to offset his increased costs.

Last month, the government raised the prices of diesel by 26 per cent, gasoline six per cent and liquefied petroleum gas 13 per cent.

That was followed by imposition of an additional customs duties of around three per cent on non-petroleum imports and a doubling of the travel tax people pay to go abroad.

The government says it will cut spending for the 1997-98 fiscal year by five per cent.

India is facing an economic slump six years after it embarked on economic reforms. Economists blame it on a political stalemate among the members of the 14-party governing coalition, who range from free marketers to Marxists.

Disagreements have kept the government from making key decisions, such as whether to sell off money-losing state-owned corporations.

Industrial growth has fallen to 6.7 per cent from 11 per cent in 1995-96, and the consumer goods industry grew by just nine per cent, down from 30 per cent in 1995-96.

Meanwhile, Indian Finance Minister P. Chidambaram said Saturday the government planned to liberalise the over-regulated agriculture sector in a bid to boost economic growth.

The minister also called for injecting further competition in the services and infrastructure sectors and warned that only hard-hitting steps would help banish endemic poverty.

"The agriculture sector is subject to severe controls, and this year we must devote attention to liberalising this sector," he told a meeting of the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) here.

Mr. Chidambaram said the sector suffered from restrictions on farm produce, lack of credit facilities, a ban on corporate sector involvement and absence of technology flow.

"Farmers should have the right to move, sell, export and determine the price for their produce," he said.

India's food grain production is poised to total a record 198 million tonnes for the fiscal year which ended in March 1997, according to estimates here.

The output was 185 million tonnes in 1995-96 and 191.50 million tonnes in 1994-95. Experts say demand for food grain could touch 301 million tonnes in 2025.

Mr. Chidambaram said despite various constraints, agriculture had contributed heavily to national growth.

He said the Indian economy grew by 6.8 per cent last year mainly because of a sudden spurt in agriculture. "It made up for the poor performance of the infrastructure sectors, particularly coal, power, road and petroleum."

Mr. Chidambaram, a strong advocate of free-market reforms, also called for deregulation of the services sector and further opening up of coal, petroleum, power and roads "to introduce competititon and make them more efficient."

"Whenever competition existed, the (concerned) sector has performed splendidly," he said, adding he was disappointed that the insurance industry in India was government-owned and lacked competition.

"India has the ability to sustain a growth of seven per cent ... We have to abolish poverty and if we cannot do it in the next 25 years, it will be a sad chapter," he said.

Indians, the minister added, did not lack in anything. "We have the tools and skills to abolish poverty although we missed the opportunity in the 1970s and 1980s. It is the duty of all political parties, leaders and government to enunciate policies to abolish poverty by 2020."

# OPEC stays on rising trend, despite hitches — survey

LONDON (R) — OPEC oil producers eked out a few extra barrels in July, confirming what most in the industry now take for granted — that the group for the most part is no longer in the business of supply restraint.

Despite tough new calls from Iran and Saudi Arabia at the group's June conference for wayward members to rein in extra supplies, July returns from a Reuters survey showed a continued upward trend in crude production.

July wellhead output from the 11 Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members rose to 26.44 million barrels a day (bpd) from a revised 26.40 million in June, the survey found.

"Surely there's no-one left, even inside OPEC, who still harbours the illusion that the overproducers will suddenly see the light and decide to cut back," said an OPEC member country delegate.

OPEC is expected to stay on an upward track for the remainder of the year.

Iraq's return to the market is likely to add about another million bpd for the remainder of August, boosting OPEC easily beyond 27 million, monitors said.

And production problems at two of OPEC's biggest suppliers — Iran and Nigeria — also helped keep a cap on July volumes.

Iran, encountering fresh difficulties at fields contributing to its Iranian light stream, was unable to make much advance from lower-than-normal supplies in May and June. Monitors put output at 3.62 million for July.

But with the major exception of OPEC's biggest producer, Saudi Arabia, there was precious little sign among OPEC members of any voluntary supply restraint.

"Those who could pumped more," said an official at an OPEC member country state oil company.

Venezuela edged higher as planned to 3.20 million bpd as Caracas reaps the reward of its upstream opening to foreign oil companies.

Tiny Qatar, buoyed by a series of new foreign company developments, reached 650,000 bpd or 70 per cent in excess of its OPEC quota.

Occidental now is pumping 95,000 bpd at Idd El Shargi, Arco's Al Rayyan is at 35,000 bpd, AP Moeller's Al Shaheen at 100,000 bpd and Elf's Al Khaleej at 17,000 bpd.

Doha plans to lift capacity a million bpd by the turn of the century.

Nigeria's latest development saw local firm Express Petroleum begin production from the Ukpokiti oilfield, reaching 20,000 bpd toward the end of July.

That wasn't enough to cover fresh, though unspecified, production problems at Shell's huge Nigerian system in July, industry monitors said.

Nevertheless, Nigerian output at 2.17 million bpd remained well in advance of its official 1.865 million quota.

The Reuter survey seeks a best estimate of wellhead flows in OPEC countries based on the views of officials, industry monitors and analysts inside and outside member countries.

OPEC quotas are based on supply to market, defined to exclude movements to, but not sales from storage.

**FURNISHED APARTMENT FOR RENT**

Location: Abdoun, opposite the American Embassy, Queen (Zein Sharaf Street).

The flat is street level with approximate space of 220 sq.m. Consists of large L-shaped reception room with a small balcony, large Oak Wood kitchen, living room, 3 medium size bedrooms, one of which has ensuite bathroom, one complete bathroom and a WC, laundry room/maid's room with shower and WC.

Annual rent: JD11,000

**Please call Mobile 079/27828 or House No. 857325**

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1997

*By Linda C. Black, Tribune Media Services, Inc.*

**ARIES:**

(March 21 to April 19) Your luck with authority figures is beginning to improve. They don't seem to cold-hearted. You may even start to make friends with a few of them. No wonder your communications are beginning to improve. Meanwhile, more playfulness is getting into your passion. Plow through the problems.

**TAURUS:**

(April 20 to May 20) If you are dating someone who's been a little difficult to pin down, you might as well give up for a while. He or she will be even more skittery than usual for the next few weeks. Don't let it bother you. If it's true love, it will last. If it's not, move on to the next applicant.

**GEMINI:**

(May 21 to June 21) If you are like most Geminis, you have a perpetual problem with money. You like to spend it more than you like to earn it. Well, you're in luck. Later tonight, it'll start getting easier to make the fortune you seek. It may not show up right now, but make cold calls tomorrow.

**MOON CHILDREN:**

(June 22 to July 21) You are good at saving money. Capricorn is good at working towards a goal. Aries is heroic. Libra is the negotiator. When these four signs form a cardinal cross, watch out for a confrontation. It can lead to a miraculous breakthrough. Today, it's in effect.

**LEO:**

(July 22 to August 21) You get more work today. Unfortunately, it's not the kind you like. It's the kind you have to do, whether you want to or not. Don't complain. It's good for you. You're a better person for it. If left to your own devices, you'd do nothing but play from dawn to dusk.

**VIRGO:**

(August 22 to September 22) It seems like everybody wants the job done a slightly different way. Which one should you obey? Find out what the highest ranking official needs, then, make a suggestion that will avert a breakdown. You'll make tonnes of points and save yourself a lot of trouble.

**LIBRA:**

(September 23 to October 22) Spend more time and mental energy on your home. Some of the new ideas are yours, and some are being generated by your roommates or family. Luckily, you and your sweetheart are in agreement on most of this. There's work involved, but it'll be bonding. Play with it.

**SCORPIO:**

(October 23 to November 21) You always learn best when working with a master. Get close to one. Some of that expertise may rub off on you. Meanwhile, you're making more money. You're also itching to gamble. Hold off on that for a little while. Build up your nest egg first, through your own hard work.

**SAGITTARIUS:**

(November 22 to December 21) You would like to support a good cause, but you don't have a lot of money. What to do? Offer something even more valuable — your experience. Don't worry that you're not good enough. Compared to people who don't know how, you are magnificent. You're also lucky in love.

**CAPRICORN:**

(December 22 to January 20) You are plagued by indecisive authority figures. This is especially painful for a Capricorn. You want to make a decision quickly and move on. If that's going to happen, you'll have to be the instigator. Don't be inhibited. Besides, you're getting luckier. Your hopes and dreams will begin to materialise soon.

**AQUARIUS:**

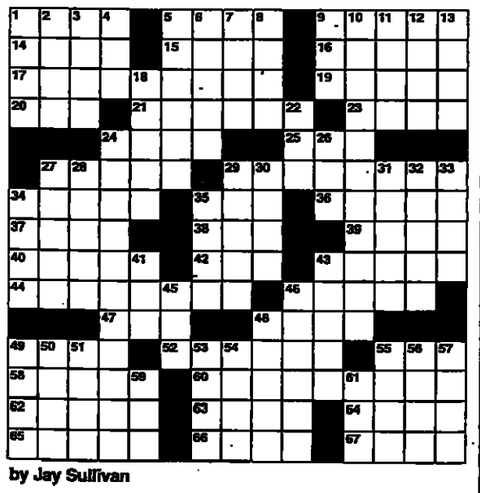
(January 21 to February 19) Someone has a very strong idea about what should be done and what shouldn't. This person may actually be in charge of the rules and regulations you have to follow. If you notice a little resistance in the morning, relax. By tomorrow it will be easier to comply graciously. Stall.

**PISCES:**

(February 20 to March 20) You've been trying to do everything, but that's not necessary anymore. All of a sudden, there are people everywhere who want to help. They may have been there before, but you didn't notice. Offer your services to a group effort. Miracles will start showing up soon.

**Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline**

## THE Daily Crossword



by Jay Sullivan

ACROSS
1 Optimistic
5 Machu Picchu native
9 Hose fastener
14 Qualified
15 High time?
16 Sponsorship
17 Insurgent member
19 Rulers
20 Bishopric
21 Virgil's hero
23 Track event
24 Sisters
25 Beaver State: abbr.
27 Palm off
29 Puts at risk
34 Suburban sights
35 Wildebeest
36 Already
37 Christmastide
38 Entire number
39 Gumbo
40 Rosebud et al.
42 Pipe joint
43 Question
44 Miss of the comics
46 Peg or Al
47 — and Yang
48 Sch. subj.
49 Poses
52 Classify
55 Peculiar
58 Bindlestiffs
60 London court building
62 In any way
63 Raised mark
64 Cairo's river
65 Robust
66 Ukraine river
67 College girl

DOWN
1 Beams of light
2 Woodwind
3 Veer
4 Craving
5 Purpose
6 Certain words
7 Central part
8 "My Way" lyricist
9 Spiteful woman
10 "Pres" of jazz
11 Culture medium
12 Spanish surrealist
13 Hey, there!
18 Magnetism measure
22 Absorb
24 Like pease porridge
26 CSA supporter
27 Mistake
28 Baby hooter
29 Coastal feature
30 Stubborn one
31 Signed
32 British truck
33 Dominion
34 Split a cell
35 International agreement
41 Take to the slopes
43 Allotment
45 Spanish queen
46 North African nomad
48 Divine
49 Pahlavi title
50 Tittle
51 Ski lift
53 Scatters seed
54 Blind part
55 Hodgepodge
56 Remove
57 Colored
59 Wily
61 Bus. abbr.

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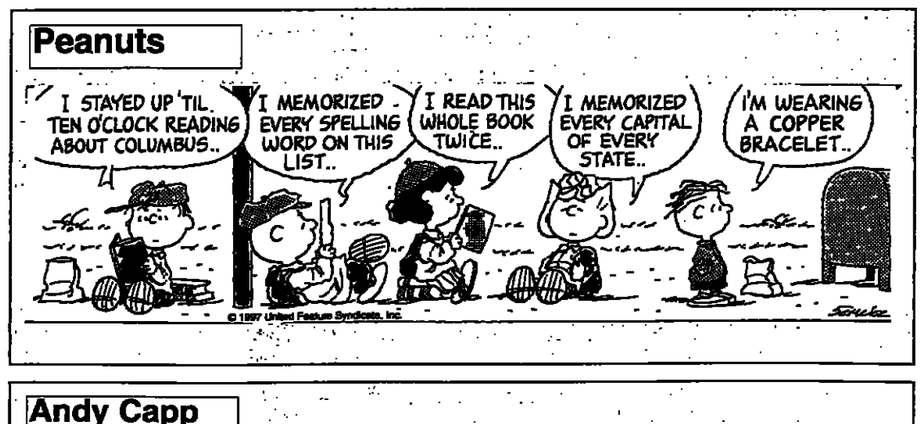
## Peanuts

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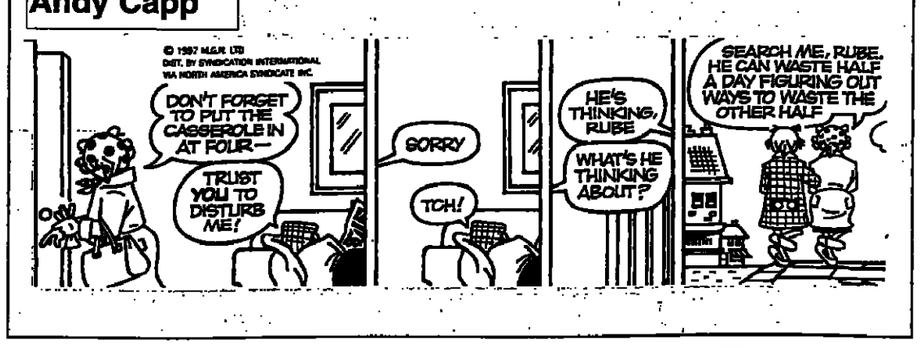
## Andy Capp




## Mutt'n'Jeff

## THE BETTER HALF® By Glasbergen

"Stanley is very jealous of my old boyfriends, my favorite teddy bear, and any puppy I ever kissed on the mouth."

## JUMBLE®

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

SABSI

HAARJ

EMORTH

CEADDE

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here : ____ ____ IT ____

(Answers Monday)

Yesterday's Jumbles: CRANK ADAPT BOBBIN LAVISH
Answer: What a teen-ager's hairdo can become — A HAIR 'DON'T'

# Jordanian, U.S. officials discuss protection of intellectual property rights

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordanian and U.S. officials Tuesday held talks at the Ministry of Industry,Trade and Supply on the Kingdom's plan to join the World Trade Organisation (WTO).

The ministry's Secretary General Mohammad Al Halaika, who headed the Jordanian side to the talks, and head of the Middle East and North Africa desk at the U.S. Trade Department discussed issues pertaining to protection of intellectual property rights.

The U.S. official stressed the importance of protecting intellectual property rights, saying that the U.S. traditional industries have lost their competitive edge. He indicated that the innovation and research in the various fields is the only competitive edge remaining for the U.S.

Protecting intellectual property rights has a great potential for attracting investments to Jordan, the U.S. official emphasised, noting that Jordan's fears about protection of intellectual property rights in the pharmaceutical sector are unjustifiable.

He explained that 90 per cent of the medicines in the world are not subject to licensing and patent rights.

The U.S. official said his country is ready to provide any technical assistance and expertise that Jordan might need to qualify for joining the WTO.

Dr. Halaika stressed Jordan's interest in joining the WTO, but said it needs a reasonable period of time until it becomes able to honour its commitment to protecting intellectual property rights.

Commitment to intellectual property rights will affect several industries in Jordan, the most important of which is the pharmaceutical industry sector, he said.

While the law on patent rights and industrial fees and the amendments thereto to protect methods of producing drugs and chemicals, it does not provide protection to the final product, thus contravening the Tripps agreement.

Dr. Halaika stressed the importance of training Jordanian cadres on protection of intellectual property rights and the requirements and criteria for transfer of technology, which, he said, constitute the means and the end for intellectual property rights protection.

# UAE bank sets up investment unit

DUBAI (AFP) — A United Arab Emirates (UAE) banking group has announced the creation of an international unit to expand its banking and investment activities in the Gulf.

The Emirates bank group said its Emirates Merchant Bank Limited (EMBL) has been registered in the Bahamas as an offshore unit with a paid up capital of $60 million.

"EMBL is a major initiative in the group's strategic plan to develop into a leading regional financial services conglomerate," said Anis Al Jallaf, managing director of Emirates Bank International (EBI), the largest part of the group.

The central bank of the Bahamas will act as a supervisory body but EMBL activities will be kept under the control of the group's headquarters in the UAE port city of Dubai, a statement said.

EMBL will focus on underwriting, private placement of debt and equity, launching initial public offerings, providing treasury and advisory services, private banking and stock market activities, corporate finance and fund management.

REUTERS REUTERS

The Business of Information

**Major Currencies & Cross Rates** — Prices as at ...... 7/10/97 19:07

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY | CAD | ITL | NLG | FRF |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | - | 1.7535 | 0.6170 | 1.4435 | 121.86 | 1.3724 | 1722.18 | 1.9748 | 5.8940 |
| DE Mark | 0.5703 | - | 0.3516 | 0.8234 | 69.54 | 0.7824 | 981.91 | 1.1263 | 3.3614 |
| GB Sterling | 1.6208 | 2.8420 | - | 2.3394 | 197.66 | 2.2244 | 2793.03 | 3.2027 | 9.5589 |
| CH Franc | 0.6928 | 121.35 | 0.4268 | - | 84.40 | 0.9498 | 1191.99 | 136.65 | 4.0759 |
| JP Yen | 0.0082 | 1.4377 | 0.5057 | 1.1839 | - | 1.1253 | 14.12 | 161.92 | 4.8292 |
| CA Dollar | 0.7287 | 1.2816 | 0.4510 | 1.0570 | 1.13 | - | 1256.40 | 1.4433 | 4.3103 |
| IT Lira | 0.0006 | 1.0173 | 0.3578 | 0.0838 | 1415.23 | 0.7962 | - | 11.46 | 3.4169 |
| NL Guilder | 0.5064 | 88.74 | 0.3121 | 73.10 | 61.67 | 0.6945 | 871.47 | - | 2.9883 |
| FR Franc | 0.1697 | 0.2973 | 0.1046 | 24.4862 | 20.66 | 0.2327 | 33.49 | 33.4900 | - |

**Middle Eastern Currencies**

| Currency | USD | JOD | SAR | BAH | QAT | KUW | AED | LBP | EGP |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | - | 0.7090 | 3.7504 | 0.3770 | 3.6398 | 0.3041 | 3.6729 | 1536.00 | 3.3980 |
| Jordan Dinar | 1.4104 | - | 5.2897 | 0.5317 | 5.1337 | 0.4289 | 5.1804 | 2166.43 | 4.7927 |
| Saudi Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.1890 | - | 0.1005 | 0.97 | 0.0811 | 0.98 | 409.56 | 0.9060 |
| Bahrain Dinar | 2.65 | 1.8806 | 9.9480 | - | 9.65 | 0.8066 | 9.74 | 4074.27 | 9.0133 |
| Qatar Dinar | 0.2747 | 0.1948 | 1.0304 | 1.0304 | - | 0.0835 | 1.01 | 422.00 | 0.9336 |
| Kuwait Dinar | 3.2884 | 2.3315 | 12.3328 | 1.2397 | 11.97 | - | 12.08 | 5050.97 | 0.9336 |
| Emirates Dinar | 0.2723 | 0.1930 | 1.0211 | 0.1026 | 0.9910 | 0.0828 | - | 418.20 | 0.9252 |
| Lebanese/1000 | 0.65 | 0.4616 | 2.4417 | 0.2454 | 2.3697 | 0.1980 | 2.3912 | - | 2.2122 |
| Egyptian | 0.2943 | 0.2087 | 1.1037 | 0.1109 | 1.0712 | 0.0895 | 1.0809 | 452.03 | - |

**Energy**

| Oils | Last | revious |
|---|---|---|
| Brent | 20.92 | 21.25 |
| W. Texa | 21.96 | 21.94 |
| Bonny | 20.92 | 21.25 |
| Dubai | 19.10 | 20.15 |
| UL Gas | 198.00 | 199.00 |

**Mid-East Currencies**

| Currency | USD | DEM | GBP | CHF | JPY |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| SA Riyal | 0.2666 | 0.4677 | 0.1645 | 0.3852 | 32.519 |
| AE Dirham | 0.2723 | 0.4776 | 0.168 | 0.3933 | 33.205 |
| KW Dinar | 3.2884 | 5.767 | 2.0292 | 4.7506 | 401.12 |
| BH Dinar | 0.3770 | 4.6533 | 1.6367 | 3.8314 | 323.52 |
| CY Pound | 1.9208 | 3.3683 | 1.1846 | 2.7738 | 234.08 |

*** JOD Cross Rates**

| Currency | Buy | Sell |
|---|---|---|
| US Dollar | 0.708 | 0.710 |
| GB Sterling | 1.1429 | 1.1486 |
| DE Mark | 0.4031 | 0.4051 |
| CH Franc | 0.4892 | 0.4916 |
| FR Franc | 0.1199 | 0.1205 |
| JP Yen | 0.5803 | 0.5832 |
| NL Guilder | 0.3578 | 0.3596 |
| IT Lira | 0.4106 | 0.4127 |

* Source: Central Bank of Jordan.

**Currency Deposit Rates (Bid)**

| Period / C'ncy | 1 Month | 3 Months | 6 Months | 9 Months | 1 Year |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| USD | 5.50 | 5.56 | 5.62 | 5.70 | 5.75 |
| GBP | 7.16 | 7.12 | 7.35 | 7.25 | 7.43 |
| JPY | 0.40 | 0.50 | 0.45 | 0.44 | 0.53 |
| DEM | 3.12 | 3.25 | 3.44 | 3.50 | 3.65 |
| FRF | 3.21 | 3.31 | 3.43 | 3.56 | 3.69 |
| CHF | 1.34 | 1.53 | 1.59 | 1.56 | 1.75 |
| ITL | 6.65 | 6.40 | 6.15 | 5.81 | 5.59 |

# Arab Bank buys assets, liabilities of failed Amman Investment Bank

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed Tuesday at the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) authorising the Arab Bank Ltd. to buy the liabilities and assets of the troubled Amman Investment Bank (AIB) after the CBJ board of directors approved the sale deal and authorised the governor of the CBJ to sign it in his capacity as the legal liquidator of the AIB. Under the agreement, the assets and liabilities of AIB shall be transferred to the Arab Bank and AIB clients can continue to deal with the Arab Bank or withdraw their deposits.

The agreement dealt with the financial and banking aspects of the liquidation and ensured that no direct payments will be required to cover the shortfall resulting from the difference between the assets and liabilities.

In light of the accumulated losses of the AIB, the shortfall amounts to approximately JD 22.9 million. To cover this deficit, the CBJ will release a portion of the Arab Bank's mandatory reserve at the Central Bank.

On the AIB's investments in companies and its JD31.8 million debt, a joint committee grouping representatives of the CBJ and Arab Bank has been formed to deal with this issue.

Earlier this year, the Amman Court of First Instance has ordered the liquidation of AIB and assigned the CBJ as legal liquidator in view of the losses incurred by the AIB

Under the agreement, the Arab Bank commits itself to absorbing 100 employees of the AIB, leaving 50 others without jobs. However, efforts will be made to absorb the 50 staff members in the banking sector.

The CBJ has made several attempts to sell the assets and liabilities of the AIB to local companies, but has not received acceptable offers other than that of the Arab Bank.

The CBJ lauded the Arab Bank for is cooperation, saying that it has contributed to safeguarding the integrity of the Banking sector and helped avert any negative socio-economic consequencies on the Joranian society.

# EIB extends $33 million loan to Industrial Development Bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — The European Investment Bank (EIB) Tuesday extended a loan amouting to 30 million ECUs (European Currency Units) ($33 million) to Jordan's Industrial Development Bank (IDB) to support small and medium size enterprises (SMEs) in the industrial, tourism and services sectors.

On Monday, an agreement was signed between Planning Minister Rima Khalaf and the head of the Middle East Projects Department at the EIB, Jean-Louis Biancarelli, extending a loan amouting to ECU 30 million to finance the construction of a two-berth jetty and purchase of container handling equipment for the Port of Aqaba.

According to a statement by the Delegation of the Commission of the European Community (EU) in Jordan, the upgraded facilities will render port operations more efficient, ensuring the strategically important economic role of the port as Jordan's only seaport.

It is also intended that the new jetty will handle bulk industrial goods, whose traffic is expected to grow in the near future, following developments in the mining and chemical industries, the statement said.

EIB and IDB officials sign the loan agreement Tuesday (Petra photo)

Both loans have been approved under the new Euro-Mediterranean partnership mandate, which is making available 2,310 million ECUs for the period 1997-1999 for financing investment projects in the 12 Mediterranean countries that have signed cooperation or association agreements with the EU, the statement said.

Jordanian projects supported by the EIB include water supply and waste-water treatment, telecommunications, transport, electricity transmission and distribution, agricultural development and SME industry projects, the statement said.

The EIB, the EU long-term financing institution, was set up in 1958 to provide loan financing for capital investment and furthering EU objectives. The bank participates in the implementation of EU cooperation policies towards third countries that have cooperation or association agreements with the union.

**AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET**
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SHMEISANI
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUSEDAY 07/10/1997

| | PAST 12 MONTHS HIGH | LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF TRANS. | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 346.000 | 241.500 | ARAB BANK | 15.4 | 1.19 | 2 | 200 | 67025 | 335.00 | 335.25 | .25+ |
| N | 2.340 | 1.680 | JOR.NATIONAL BK. | E | 0.00 | 13 | 7913 | 15351 | 1.94 | 1.94 | - |
| | 3.600 | 2.760 | BANK OF JORDAN | 6.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 50 | 148 | 2.93 | 2.95 | .02+ |
| | 1.190 | .890 | MID.EAST INV.BK. | 69.6 | 0.00 | 13 | 8950 | 9474 | 1.01 | 1.06 | .05+ |
| | 2.540 | 2.150 | INDUSTRIAL DEV.BK. | 9.9 | 6.35 | 12 | 5400 | 13364 | 2.49 | 2.49 | - |
| | 5.200 | 4.600 | THE HOUSING BK. | 14.9 | 3.90 | 10 | 70908 | 353117 | 4.93 | 4.98 | .05+ |
| | 1.050 | .740 | JOR.GULF BANK | 4.9 | 8.43 | 2 | 200 | 163 | .82 | .83 | .01+ |
| | 4.050 | 3.520 | JOR.ISLAMIC BANK | 15.1 | 3.24 | 18 | 8582 | 31818 | 3.71 | 3.70 | .01- |
| | 1.530 | 1.110 | UNION BK.SAV.INV. | P | 0.00 | 5 | 1800 | 2231 | 1.26 | 1.23 | .03- |
| | 3.750 | 3.080 | JOR.INV.FIN.BANK | 22.8 | 0.00 | 1 | 2500 | 8875 | 3.55 | 3.55 | - |
| | BANK SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 240.15 %CHG: +0.16 | | | 77 | 106503 | 501565 | | | |
| | 2.170 | 1.590 | JOR FRENCH INSUR. | 5.4 | 7.89 | 2 | 700 | 1332 | 1.88 | 1.90 | .02+ |
| | INSURANCE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 114.57 %CHG: +0.11 | | | 2 | 700 | 1332 | | | |
| | 2.050 | 1.550 | JOR.ELECTRIC PWR. | 9.4 | 5.13 | 20 | 7800 | 15206 | 1.95 | 1.95 | - |
| | 4.030 | 1.320 | IRBID ELECTRICITY | 23.1 | 2.96 | 5 | 3088 | 12005 | 3.94 | 3.88 | .06- |
| | 3.050 | 2.300 | SHIPPING LINES | 15.4 | 4.91 | 1 | 100 | 265 | 2.70 | 2.65 | .05- |
| | 1.550 | .930 | NATL. PORTFOLIO | g | 0.00 | 3 | 750 | 993 | 1.34 | 1.32 | .02- |
| | 1.010 | .820 | REAL ESTATE INV. | 12.8 | 6.52 | 1 | 5000 | 4600 | .92 | .92 | - |
| | .810 | .480 | JORDAN INTL.TRAD. | 26.7 | 0.00 | 2 | 148 | 76 | .54 | .52 | .02- |
| | 3.720 | 2.890 | ARAB INTL.INV.EDUC. | 9.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 250 | 885 | 3.55 | 3.54 | .01- |
| | 1.170 | .930 | ZARKA EDUCATION | g | 0.00 | 6 | 3900 | 3722 | .96 | .95 | .01- |
| | 2.230 | 1.630 | UNIFIED CO. | 8.5 | 6.18 | 7 | 3000 | 5345 | 1.79 | 1.78 | .01- |
| | SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 111.35 %CHG: -0.37 | | | 46 | 24036 | 43097 | | | |
| | 4.450 | 3.220 | JOR. CEMENT FACT. | 24.4 | 3.04 | 33 | 37528 | 136711 | 3.70 | 3.62 | .08- |
| | 4.140 | 3.000 | JOR.PHOSPHATE MINES | 10.3 | 2.70 | 3 | 50000 | 185000 | 3.72 | 3.70 | .02- |
| | 7.050 | 5.420 | ARAB POTASH CO. | 14.0 | 3.32 | 2 | 300 | 1809 | 6.00 | 6.03 | .03+ |
| | 11.100 | 9.070 | JOR. PETROL.REFINARY | 10.6 | 8.12 | 6 | 1906 | 20870 | 10.95 | 10.95 | - |
| | 7.150 | 5.800 | JOR.WORSTED MILLS | 11.0 | 2.94 | 1 | 4000 | 27200 | 6.90 | 6.80 | .10- |
| | 4.700 | 3.040 | ARAB PHARM. MANF. | 12.6 | 4.36 | 10 | 3438 | 15892 | 4.61 | 4.59 | .02- |
| | 9.800 | 5.000 | ARAB CHEM. DTRGN. | 19.9 | 4.62 | 2 | 200 | 1302 | 6.55 | 6.50 | .05- |
| | 6.000 | 4.300 | DAR ALDAWA DV.INV. | 14.5 | 4.24 | 3 | 10800 | 63912 | 5.90 | 5.90 | - |
| | 3.850 | 2.220 | ARAB ALUM.IND. | 5.6 | 10.50 | 2 | 250 | 595 | 2.39 | 2.38 | .01- |
| | .710 | .450 | LIVESTOCK & POULTRY | 10.8 | 0.00 | 13 | 13250 | 6768 | .52 | .51 | .01- |
| | 1.240 | .820 | ARAB PAPER CONV.TRD. | 27.2 | 0.00 | 10 | 4300 | 3868 | .87 | .89 | .02+ |
| | .770 | .510 | NATIONAL INDS. | g | 0.00 | 5 | 2042 | 1164 | .58 | .57 | .01- |
| | 1.200 | .510 | INTERMED.PETRO.CHEM. | g | 0.00 | 5 | 900 | 505 | .57 | .56 | .01- |
| | 2.970 | 1.420 | UNIV.CHEM.INDS. | 12.8 | 7.04 | 3 | 500 | 710 | 1.42 | 1.42 | - |
| | .890 | .530 | JOR. SULPHO-CHEM | g | 0.00 | 10 | 6750 | 4745 | .71 | .70 | .01- |
| | 1.670 | 1.120 | ARAB PHARM.CHEM. | 16.6 | 5.38 | 7 | 2750 | 3575 | 1.30 | 1.30 | - |
| | 1.880 | 1.080 | UNIV. MODN.INDS. | P | .21 | 8 | 1650 | 2045 | 1.24 | 1.24 | - |
| | 1.460 | .890 | JOR.INDS.RESOURCES | 12.0 | 11.24 | 19 | 7474 | 6651 | .89 | .89 | - |
| | 1.070 | .810 | JOR. NEW CABLE CO. | 15.6 | 0.00 | 14 | 16450 | 13983 | .85 | .85 | - |
| | 2.090 | 1.340 | EL -ZAY READY WEAR | 52.4 | 0.00 | 5 | 859 | 1278 | 1.50 | 1.49 | .01- |
| | 1.330 | 1.080 | INTL. TOBACCO | 6.4 | 0.00 | 7 | 7450 | 8617 | 1.16 | 1.17 | .01+ |
| | 1.200 | .860 | UNION CH. & VEG. | 50.9 | 0.00 | 1 | 500 | 560 | 1.12 | 1.12 | - |
| | INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS | | INDEX: 119.39 %CHG: -0.35 | | | 170 | 173332 | 507802 | | | |
| | GRAND TOTAL | | INDEX: 173.93 %CHG: -0.05 | | | 295 | 304571 | 1053796 | | | |

PARALLEL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUSEDAY 07/10/1997

| | HIGH | LOW | COMPANY'S NAME | P / E | DIV. | NO. OF TRANS. | NO. OF SHARES | VALUE TRADED JD | OPEN PRICE | CLOSE PRICE | CHANGE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | .630 | .300 | CENTRAL GEN.STORAGE | g | 0.00 | 5 | 6000 | 1860 | .31 | .31 | - |
| | .620 | .380 | JOR.TRADE FAC. | 11.5 | 0.00 | 15 | 35700 | 15556 | .44 | .43 | .01- |
| | 1.550 | 1.060 | ZARA FOR INVESTMENT | 82.7 | 0.00 | 3 | 1850 | 2235 | 1.26 | 1.26 | - |
| | .770 | .660 | UNION INV. 50% | g | 0.00 | 33 | 63000 | 17010 | .77 | .77 | - |
| | .570 | .360 | ARAB FIN.INVEST. | g | 0.00 | 12 | 15600 | 6240 | .40 | .40 | - |
| TN | 1.050 | .850 | UNITED FOR FINAN.INV | 55.2 | 0.00 | 1 | 5000 | 5300 | 1.01 | 1.06 | .05+ |
| | .750 | .400 | NATL.MULT.ENG.NAMICO | g | 0.00 | 16 | 13000 | 5330 | .42 | .41 | .01- |
| N | 1.020 | .890 | READY MIX CONCRETE | 12.1 | 0.00 | 2 | 1600 | 1600 | .98 | 1.00 | .02+ |
| | .810 | .710 | JORDAN STEEL | 34.4 | 6.58 | 2 | 2400 | 1824 | .76 | .76 | - |
| | .680 | .580 | MIDEAST PHARM. 75% | E | 0.00 | 7 | 8550 | 3164 | .62 | .62 | - |
| | 1.300 | .860 | UNION TOBACCO 75% | g | 0.00 | 2 | 413 | 433 | 1.30 | 1.30 | - |
| | .730 | .550 | RAZI PHARM. 85% | E | 0.00 | 6 | 2800 | 1445 | .67 | .66 | .01- |
| | .510 | .290 | INDS. ENG. | g | 0.00 | 7 | 6750 | 2295 | .34 | .34 | - |
| | .520 | .210 | I.TEXTILE MANUF. | g | 0.00 | 1 | 200 | 52 | .25 | .26 | .01+ |
| | .820 | .590 | NATL. POULTRY | E | 0.00 | 8 | 6100 | 3904 | .64 | .64 | - |
| N | 1.000 | .690 | NAT.ALUMINIUM. 75% | 97.4 | 0.00 | 5 | 1824 | 820 | .71 | .70 | .01- |
| N | 1.020 | .720 | ARAB INT. FOOD FACT. | 42.9 | 0.00 | 2 | 3750 | 3338 | .92 | .89 | .03- |
| | .840 | .580 | MID.EAST COMPLEX | 7.5 | 16.39 | 10 | 8000 | 4880 | .61 | .61 | - |
| | GRAND TOTAL | | | | | 137 | 182537 | 77285 | | | |

T : New 12 months high
N : Listed during the past 12 months
P : P/E ratio is 100 or more
g : Negative P/E
E : Earning is zero or N/A for the most recent year

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# Cleveland advance to ALCS as they oust World Series champs

CLEVELAND (AFP) — The Cleveland Indians defeated the World Series champion New York Yankees 4-3 here Monday to advance to the American League Championship Series.

Manny Ramirez's two-run double highlighted a three-run third inning and rookie Jaret Wright made it stand up with the help of the bullpen as the Indians won the best-of-five series three games to two.

Wright, 21, won his second game of the series by holding New York to three runs over 5 1/3 innings. Mike Jackson and Paul Assenmacher held the Yankees in check until Jose Mesa got the final five outs for his second save of the series.

Mesa escaped a jam in the eighth and got the first two batters easily in the ninth. Paul O'Neill, who was 6-for-7 in his career against Mesa, laced a double off the bottom of the wall in right-center field and barely eluded the tag of shortstop Omar Vizquel. But Bernie Williams popped Mesa's first offering into left field for the final out.

The Indians, who advance to face the Baltimore Orioles, will be appearing in the League Championship Series for the second time in three seasons. Baltimore eliminated the Indians in four games in a Division Series last year.

New York, which didn't face a decisive game in its run to the title last year, hasn't won a game when facing elimination since 1981. Cleveland, which hasn't won a World Series since 1948, was participating in its first make-or-break game.

**Cleveland Indians' player of the game Omar Vizquel (R) and Marquis Grissom (L) celebrate their 4-3 victory over the New York Yankees in their Division Series game in Cleveland's Jacobs Field. Cleveland wins the series 3 games to 2 and goes on to play the Baltimore Orioles in the American League Championship Series (Reuters photo)**

The Yankees missed a chance to knot the game in the eighth inning against Mesa. After Assenmacher got the first batter in the frame, Mesa struck out Mike Stanley on five breaking balls.

Charlie Hayes singled up the middle and Wade Boggs followed with a single into the right-center field gap to put runners on the corners. But New York manager Joe Torre, who had already pinch hit for staring backstop Joe Girardi, let Jorge Posada hit. After taking a ball, Posada bounced weakly back to Mesa for the final out.

Andy Pettitte surrendered four runs and six hits in 6 2/3 innings, walking none and striking out two. Pettitte again failed to step up for New York, struggling early before finishing strong.

In two starts opposing Wright, Pettitte was tagged for 11 runs and 15 hits in 11 2/3 innings. He fell to 2-5 all-time against Cleveland. In four starts in Division Series play, Pettitte is 0-2, allowing 19 runs and 28 hits in 25 innings.

The Indians broke on top with three runs in the third inning against Pettitte. Marquis Grissom lined a one-out single to left field and Bip Roberts blooped a single to center. Vizquel bounced into a force out at second, putting runners on the corners.

Vizquel broke off first and headed to second but Pettitte was left helpless when nobody covered the bag. The play proved costly when Ramirez, mired in an 0-for-13 slump, lined a ground-rule double to center field over the head of Williams. Matt Williams then capped the outburst with a single through the left side for a 3-0 advantage.

Sandy Alomar opened the fourth with a leadoff double and was bunted over by Jim Thome. Tony Fernandez, who had a key-two run double in Game Two, followed with a lineout to right. O'Neill made a strong throw to the plate but Alomar slid in just ahead of the tag.

# Ferdinand out of England plans

LONDON (AFP) — Glenn Hoddle's World Cup plans suffered a blow on Tuesday when Les Ferdinand was forced to pull out of the England squad for Saturday's decisive game against Italy in Rome.

The Tottenham striker has suffered a recurrence of the stomach strain which forced him out of the Spurs team last month.

England coach Hoddle revealed the powerful former Newcastle and QPR striker may even need surgery.

Hoddle said: "It's up to Tottenham to decide over the next few days whether he needs a rest or an operation which it might be.

"That's between Les and Spurs however but it is a real blow to us.

Despite the absence of Ferdinand, and his former Newcastle team-mate Rob Lee withdrew at the weekend with a thigh injury, Hoddle will not be bringing anybody else into his party.

He explained that he had plenty of choice of strikers in Teddy Sheringham, Ian Wright, Robbie Fowler, Paul Scholes and Stan Collymore.

# *It's all in the mind — Hoddle*

LONDON (AFP) — England coach Glenn Hoddle believes Saturday's decisive World Cup showdown with Italy in Rome will be won or lost in the mind.

The England squad will be locked away for nearly three days to protect them from the mounting pressure in the build up to England's biggest match since the 2-0 defeat to Holland in Rotterdam four years ago which effectively ended hopes of reaching the 1994 finals.

Hoddle is set to ban his players from reading English newspapers to try to keep the pressure off his squad for the game they only have to draw to reach next summer's finals.

After meeting the media on Thursday morning, they will be hidden away in their luxury La Borghesiana Hotel and kept away from everyone until they appear in the Olympic Stadium on Saturday night.

Hoddle explained his thinking: "I've always been focused, a guy that's had total belief in my own ability. As a coach now I have to get that through to my players.

"We need to go down that tunnel in Rome with every single player 100 per cent in his mind and in his heart that we can do the job. If they've really got that belief and that inner steel then we can do it."

"We're going over to Italy a day earlier than we would probably have done. We have a nice training camp over there, tucked away from anyone and the pressure that builds up sub-consciously when you stay in this country.

"I've never let outside things affect me. You have to cocoon yourself away where you're just wrapped up in your team.

"Psychological things about United beating Juventus, England beating Italy in the summer — they are very small factors. That's not going to be the difference between us winning and losing.

"It's about what team goes out there and can get closest to their natural way of playing in that pressure-pot, they will win the game.

"All the peripheral things, come that whistle at quarter to nine, go out of the window.

"The players and myself know exactly the task in hand, that playing Italy in Rome is always going to be one of the toughest internationals you can get."

When England went to Rome for a World Cup qualifier in 1976 they froze and were lucky to come away with just a 2-0 beating.

Hoddle is determined the same thing will not happen this time, and emphasizes that the greatest strain is all on Italy.

"I like to reverse the roles and if you say this was at Wembley and we needed to win, that says it all. That is when the pressure and expectations would really be on you.

"We haven't quite got that, but going to Rome is a difficult task to get the result we need. But we will have the inner belief amongst us to go out and do the job."

"That's being positive. It's not being arrogant and not being complacent. It's having that inner belief."

For Hoddle this is the great test and he said: "This was always going to be the crunch game. It's got to be the biggest challenge I've had as a manager.

"I'm in a positive frame of mind, I know what team I want to play and I just hope I get the chance to play it."

# Graf 15th in WTA rankings

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) — Latest WTA rankings released here on Monday:

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Martina Hingis (Swi) | 6976 pts |
| 2. Jana Novotna (Cze) | 3881 |
| 3. Monica Seles (USA) | 3429 |
| 4. Iva Majoli (Cro) | 3179 |
| 5. Lindsay Davenport (USA) | 3053 |
| 6. Amanda Coetzer (Rsa) | 2977 |
| 7. Mary Pierce (Fra) | 2400 |
| 8. Anke Huber (Ger) | 2350 |
| 9. Irina Spirlea (Rom) | 2235 |
| 10. Conchita Martinez (Spa) | 2198 |
| 11. Arantxa Sanchez (Spa) | 2098 |
| 12. Mary Joe Fernandez (USA) | 1902 |
| 13. Sandrine Testud (Fra) | 1733 |
| 14. Brenda S.-McCarthy (Ned) | 1670 |
| 15. Steffi Graf (Ger) | 1663 |
| 16. Ruxandra Dragomir (Rom) | 1442 |
| 17. Sabine Appelmans (Bel) | 1402 |
| 18. Barbara Paulus (Aut) | 1386 |
| 19. Yayuk Basuki (Ina) | 1299 |
| 20. Kimberly Po (USA) | 1268 |

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAH HIRSCH

### GO FOR BROKE

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 5 4
♡ 5 4 3
♢ A Q 4 3 2
♣ 3 2

WEST
♠ J 10 9
♡ Q J 8
♢ K 7 6
♣ J 10 9 8

EAST
♠ K 8 6 3
♡ 10 9 7
♢ J 10 9
♣ K Q 7

SOUTH
♠ A Q 2
♡ A K 6 2
♢ 8 5
♣ A 6 5 4

The bidding:

| SOUTH | WEST | NORTH | EAST |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1NT | Pass | 3NT | Pass |
| Pass | Pass | | |

Opening lead: Jack of ♣

When you are not playing for coin of the realm, you can afford to take the sort of chances you would never consider at rubber bridge. This hand is from a team event. The player in the North seat judged, correctly, that the North-South team were trailing late in the match, and needed to create some action.

Actually, North leap's to the no-trump game is not as crazy as it might appear. Give South either the king or jack-ten in North's long suit, increasing the feasibility of making five tricks in the suit, and nine tricks could come home in comfort. Unfortunately, South held the worst possible holding for this type of adventure.

West led the jack of clubs, and declarer could count only five fast tricks. To get home, the diamond suit would have to provide four tricks and the spade finesse would have to succeed; all in all, about a 9 percent chance!

First, is there any point to a holdup at trick one after East covers with the queen? Not really — West will surely have an entry to hand in some suit even if clubs are 5-2. So go ahead and win the ace of clubs at trick one.

How can you make four tricks in diamonds? You must find the suit splitting 3-3 and the king with West. Even then, you must manipulate the diamonds carefully — dummy does not have a side entry to the long cards in the suit.

Declarer was up to the challenge. At trick two South led a low diamond and ducked! The defenders completed their book by cashing three club tricks, ending in West, and the queen of hearts was returned, won in the closed hand. Declarer cleared one hurdle when a diamond to the queen held. Next came the diamond ace, and prospects really perked up after both defenders followed, allowing two long diamond tricks to be cashed. A spade to the queen now delivered the fulfilling trick, and a miraculous game was in the bag.

## SPORTS IN BRIEF

### Becker given Davis Cup job

MUNICH (AFP) — Triple Wimbledon champion Boris Becker has been put in charge of Germany's Davis Cup tennis team. The former world number one takes over from Niki Pilic who has resigned after 15 years in the job. Carl-Uwe Steeb takes over the post the 58-year-old Pilic also held as captain, the German federation said. Michael Stich, another former Wimbledon champion who retires at the end of the season, had also been touted for the job Becker was given. Becker has said he will play no more Grand Slam tournaments next season but has not said he would retire.

### Agassi, Becker face sanction threat

VIENNA (AFP) — CA Tennis Trophy tournament director Leo Gunther Huemer has called on the ATP to sanction both Andre Agassi and Boris Becker for their late withdrawals from this week's event. The American gave no explanation while Becker said he was injured.

### Jardel strike keeps Porto top

LISBON (AFP) — Brazilian striker Jardel hit a 74th minute qualiser to earn Porto a 1-1 draw at Vitoria Setubal on Monday and keep them top of the Portuguese first division. Amaral had opened the score on 47 minutes for Setubal. Porto were a point ahead of Vitoria Guimaraes at the top of the table.

### Tszyu to fight Chaves

SYDNEY (AFP) — Russian-born Australian Kostya Tszyu is planning a comeback fight against Argentine Ismael Chaves in December, his manager Vlad Warton said Tuesday. Tszyu, who lost his International Boxing Federation (IBF) title to American Vince Phillips in the United States last June, will fight Chaves in a World Boxing Council (WBC) elimination bout in a football stadium in Townsville, north Queensland, on December 6. The winner will get a mandatory title shot against either Mexicans, Julio Cesar Chavez or Miguel Angel Gonzalez, who will be fighting for the WBC super lightweight title vacated by Oscar De La Hoya, Warton said. Phillips has also agreed to fight Tszyu in Australia if he wins his mandatory defence of the IBF title against fellow American Freddie Pendleton in December.

### Galante gets Italy call-up

FLORENCE (AFP) — Italy coach Cesare Maldini called up Inter Milan defender Fabio Galante on Monday night for this weekend's crucial World Cup qualifier against England. Maldini took the decision after reading the latest medical report on Juventus' defensive lynchpin Ciro Ferrara, who strained adductor muscles in his right thigh at the end of Sunday's win over Fiorentina. Ferrara will rest at Italy's Coverciano training base until Wednesday, when he be will be given a fresh scan. According to the results, Italy officials will either send him home or keep him with the squad.

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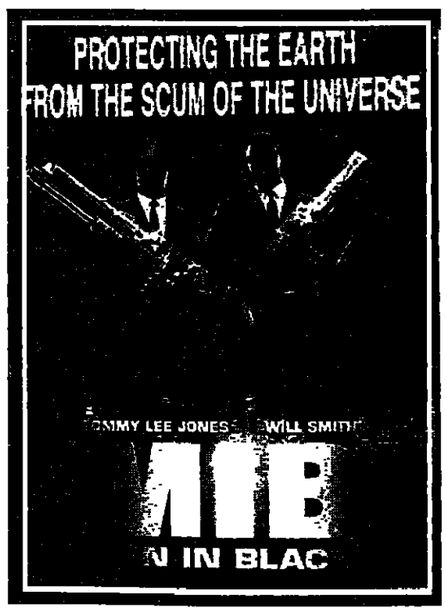
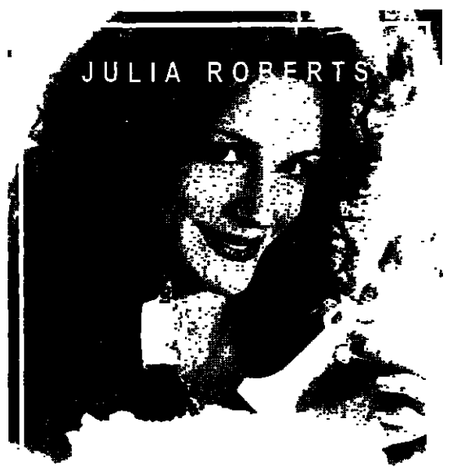



3:30 / 6:15 / 8:30 / 10:45

GALLERIA 2




MY BEST FRIEND'S Wedding

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Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:634144
PHILADELPHIA "2"
Eddie Murphy ...in
THE NUTTY PROFESSOR
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10,30

CINEMA TEL:699238
PLAZA
John Travolta & Nicholas Cage ...in
FACE OFF
Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

CINEMA TEL:677420
CONCORD
CONCORD "1"
Holly Hunter & Sigourney Weaver ...in
COPY CAT
(12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30)
CONCORD "2"
Cindy Crawford ...in
FAIR GAME
Shows: 3:30, 6:00 only

CINEMA TEL: 079 33430
GALLERIA 1
ABDOUN
John Travolta & Nicolas Cage ... in
FACE OFF
Shows: 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:45

CINEMA TEL: 079 33430
GALLERIA 2
ABDOUN
Julia Roberts ... in
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Starring Hisham Yanes and Amal Dabbas

# Baiano double ends Leicester's home run

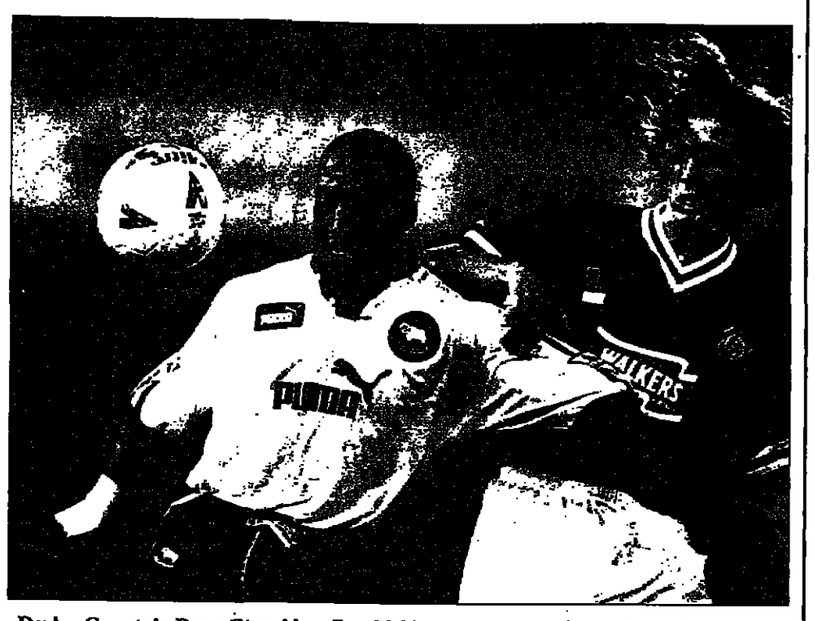
LONDON (AFP) — A double from Derby County's Italian striker Francesco Baiano ended Leicester City's seven match unbeaten home run on Monday as Derby ran out 2-1 winners — lifting them to sixth in the table seven points off leaders Arsenal but with two games in hand.

Baiano, who took his total to six goals in four matches, had the visitors 2-0 up just after the hour only for Leicester's Matt Elliott to reply within five minutes to set up an exciting finale.

Baiano slotted home into an empty net in the 62nd minute after a mix-up between American keeper Kasey Keller and defender Robbie Savage.

They both went to clear a weak shot from Costa Rican striker Paolo Wanchope only for them to collide and the ball rebounded off Keller into the Italian's path who slid it home.

The lanky but skillful Wanchope had capitalised in the 21st minute on Ian Marshall missing Croat Igor Stimac's longball into the Leicester box and passed it first-time across the goal for Baiano to tuck it past Keller at the far post.



Derby County's Dean Sturridge (L) shields the ball from Leicester City defender Rob Savage (R) during their FA Premiership match at Filbert Street. Derby County won the match 2-1 (Reuters photo)

Elliott, the Leicester captain and recently called upto the Scotland squad, shot home in the 67th minute after Emile Heskey had escaped his marker Christian Dailly at the far post and knocked it to the big defender — although the goal should have been ruled out for offside as Leicester striker Tony Cottee was standing on the goalline.

Baiano should have been celebrating a hat-trick but a 14th minute effort was ruled out for offside though he appeared to be level with the Leicester defender when Jamaican international Deon Burton played him through.

Leicester, who had started the quickest off the blocks forcing five corners in the first six minutes, came back at Derby late in the first-half with first the visitor's Danish defender Jacob Laursen clearing Steve Guppy's dangerous pass across the goal over his bar and then Estonian keeper Mart Poom made a brilliant save to keep out Gary Parker's wickedly curling freekick.

# Premier League's 7th week kicks off today

## *Faisali renew request for foreign referees against Wihdat*

**By Aleen Bannayan**
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — The 7th week of the Premier League competition kicks off Wednesday with relatively easy matches scheduled for the week which concludes Friday.

During the past round the only change on the standings was Al Hussein moving up to third on points over Al Ramtha after their 3-2 win over Qadissieh. Al Ramtha had a 2-0 win over Al Baqaa which maintained them among the top four.

The only draw was a 2-2 tie in the Shabab Hussein-Ahli match, while the top two teams continued their winning streaks with Al Wihdat scoring a 3-1 over Al Jazireh and Al Faisali winning 2-1 over Al Karmel.

While the teams get back to their matches, Al Faisali Tuesday announced that they would ask the Jordan Football Association (JFA) to enlist foreign referees for their future matches against Al Wihdat.

The club had made a similar request at the start of the year and, after much controversy, Saudi referees officiated their Federation Shield match last month. The two teams' league match however was officiated by local referees who were infuriated by the enlisting of foreign referees regarding it an insult to their capability and integrity, citing that JFA regulations bar the appointment of non-Jordanian referees for local matches.

The return of soccer action to the Kingdom's stadiums comes after a nearly month-long stop following the national team's participation in a tournament in Libya.

The soccer season has been plagued by the usual interruptions which prolong the competition into the winter months despite the fact that the JFA had hoped this season would see an uninterrupted agenda.

Following Jordan's gold medal win at the Pan-Arab Games the JFA scheduled the national team to take part in a series of regional competitions to maintain continuity for the team and provide match experience for the players.

However, this led to the postponement of Premier League matches and the case is likely to be repeated when the national teams travels Iraq for another regional competition.

The Iraqi Soccer Federation this week announced that it was postponing the event until further notice, which led the JFA to reschedule the final two weeks of the Premier League's first round.

**STANDINGS**

| Team | P | W | D | L | Gf | Ga | Pts |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Wihdat | 6 | 5 | 1 | 0 | 10 | 3 | 16 |
| Faisali | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 8 | 13 |
| Hussein | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 8 | 13 |
| Ramtha | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 9 | 2 | 13 |
| Ahli | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 11 | 8 |
| Jazireh | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 9 | 7 |
| Qadisieh | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 8 | 11 | 7 |
| S.Hussein | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 | 9 | 4 |
| Baqaa | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 6 | 16 | 3 |
| Karmel | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 3 | 17 | 1 |

**Schedule for 7th week**

| | |
|---|---|
| Ahli-Ramtha | Wed. Oct. 8 |
| Jazireh—Baqaa | Wed. Oct. 8 |
| Sh. Hussein-Faisali | Thurs. Oct 9 |
| Wihdat-Qadissieh | Fri. Oct. 10 |
| Karmel-Hussein | Fri. Oct. 10 |

# Denver down Patriots to claim 6th straight win

DENVER (AFP) — Terrell Davis capped a decisive third quarter with a one-yard touchdown plunge as the Broncos knocked off New England 34-13 in a matchup of the National Football League's last two unbeaten teams.

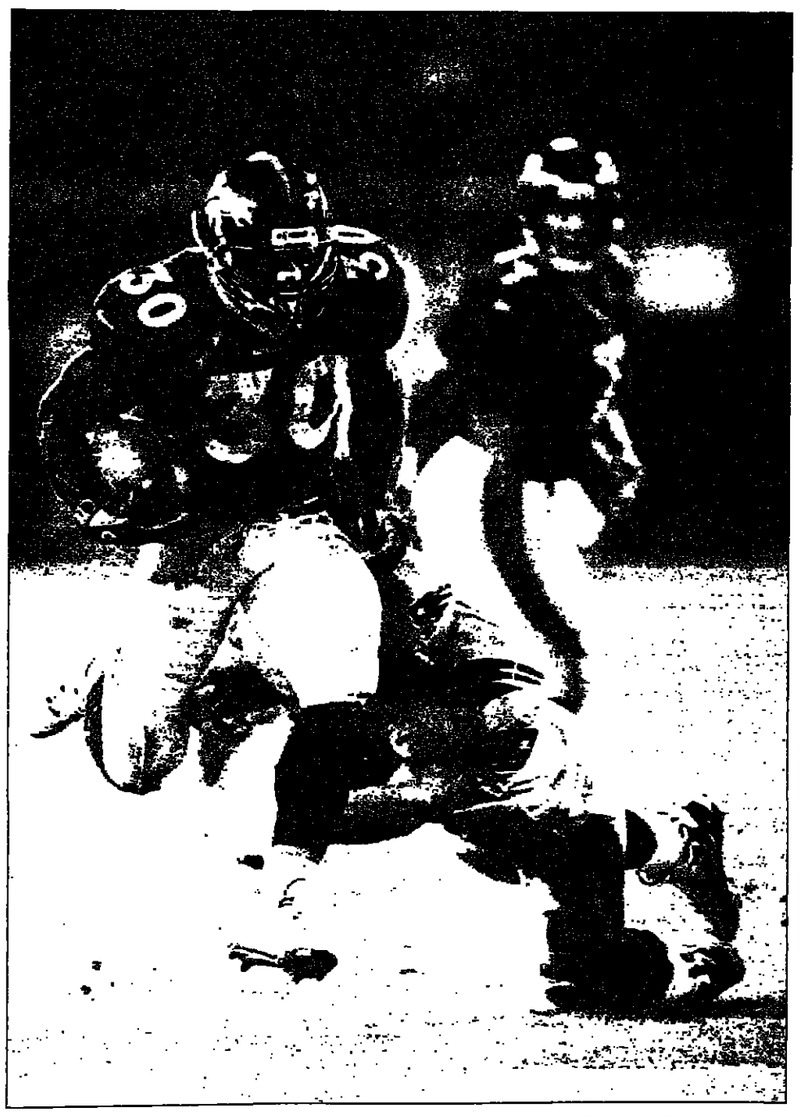
John Elway completed 13 of 27 passes for 196 yards and two interceptions as Denver (6-0) matched the best start in franchise history. The Broncos, who also opened the 1977 and 1986 seasons with six straight victories, defeated the Patriots for the 10th straight time.

Davis, who carried 32 times, also had a two-yard touchdown run in the first quarter. He currently leads the National Football League with 776 yards.

On the opening possession of the second half, Elway's one-yard quarterback sneek capped a 10-play, 80-yard drive to give the Broncos a 21-13 lead. New England quarterback Drew Bledsoe threw three straight incompletions and Denver took the ensuing possession and moved 69 yards in nine plays, capped by Bentley's 21-yard field goal.

Elway's 47-yard pass to Rod Smith set up a one-yard burst by Davis, giving the Broncos a 31-13 advantage with 1:59 remaining in the third.

Bledsoe was 20-of-41 for 234 yards with a touchdown and an interception for New England (4-1). The Patriots have not won in Denver since they were the Boston Patriots, earning a 20-17 victory in 1968.



Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis (30) sheds New England Patriots linebacker Todd Collins after a hand off from Broncos quarterback John Elway (R) in the fourth quarter in Denver. Davis rushed for 171 yards on 32 carries in leading the Broncos to a 34-13 win over the Patriots (Reuters photo)

# Stark upsets Chang again in Singapore

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Unseeded Jonathan Stark of the United States stunned World No. 2 and compatriot Michael Chang in the first round of the Singapore Open here on Tuesday in a repeat of last year's final.

Defending champion Stark won 7-6 (7/1), 7-6 (8/6) in almost two hours, depriving the $675,000 tournament of its top seed and star attraction to the disappointment of 5,000 Chang fans at the Singapore Indoor Stadium.

Stark beat Chang in straight sets in last year's final, progressing all the way from the qualifying rounds to the title, but was unseeded and drawn to play him in the very first round this time.

"I am disappointed to have lost again," the 25-year-old Chang said.

"I think today's match was about who would do well in the tie-breakers."

Stark, whose big serve never came under pressure, played brilliantly in the first tie-breaker, racing away with six points in a row. In the second tie-breaker, Chang saved two match-points but Stark was not to be denied.

Stark, who will play Slovakian Jiri Novak in the second round, said he served very well and "won some big points when I needed to."

"It's really a gratifying achievement to play and beat a competitor like Michael," he said.

Marcelo Rios of Chile, the number two seed, kept his mercurial temper under tight rein as he made short work of Justin Gimelstob of the United States.

The pony-tailed world number eight, the latest bad boy of tennis, needed less than an hour to dispose of Gimelstob 6-2, 6-4, finishing the match off with an ace.

The Chilean will next play the unseeded Byron Black of Zimbabwe, who beat American veteran David Wheaton overnight.

British qualifier Chris Wilkinson upset Danish number one Kenneth Carlsen, semi-finalist at the China Open in Beijing, and set up a second-round showdown with rising German star Nicolas Kiefer, winner of the Toulouse Open a fortnight ago.

Wilkinson won 3-6, 6-3, 6-2 in one hour, 36 minutes, subduing the left-handed Dane with powerful serves and brilliant returns after tamely surrendering the first set.

The 27-year-old Briton, ranked world number 143, reeled off seven games in a row on his way to winning the second set and forging a 4-0 lead in the decider.

Australian qualifier Michael Tebbutt whipped Patrick McEnroe 6-3, 6-2 to set up a possible second-round meeting with another American, third-seeded Jim Courier, who plays Thai wild card Paradorn Srichapahan in the first round.

Vincent Spadea of the United States downed Alex Radulescu of Germany 6-4, 6-4 and now faces Czech Martin Damm.

India's Leander Paes and Mahesh Bhupathi, gunning for their sixth doubles title of the year, advanced in the doubles competition with a hard-fought first-round win.

Paes and Bhupathi, ranked world number five in the doubles, downed Richey Reneberg of the United States and Czech Cyril Suk 6-4, 7-6 (9/7) to set up a second-round clash with South Africans Grant Stafford and Marcus Ondruska.

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# Torino sack Souness

TURIN (AFP) — Second division Torino sacked their Scottish coach Graeme Souness on Tuesday.

Torino president Massimo Vidulich said assistant coach Edoardo Reja would take over on a caretaker basis.

Souness, the former Scotland skipper and manager of Glasgow Rangers, Liverpool and Southampton, was in charge for only six matches. Sunday's third defeat of the season, 4-0 at Verona, pushed the club to 15th out of 20 teams in the table with only seven points and far away from their ambitions of promotion.

It is understood the club will hand Souness, who signed a two-year contract in the summer, a £750,000 pay-off.

Souness had an illustrious playing career for Middlesbrough, Liverpool and Sampdoria, as well as Scotland, before becoming player-manager of Rangers.

After leading the club to three league titles he returned to Liverpool in 1991 as managerial successor to Kenny Dalglish.

Two unsuccessful — by Liverpool standards — seasons later he left the club and then spent a year in Turkey as manager of Galatasaray.

In 1996 he became manager of Southampton but after securing the club's Premiership survival he resigned after a bust-up with the board.

# French dream of beating Japanese judo old masters

PARIS (AFP) — French judokas, having excelled since the Barcelona Olympics five years ago, have a great dream at this week's World Judo Championships being held on home ground — doing better than the sport's Japanese inventors.

At Atlanta last summer, the French almost achieved that goal.

"It went down to the final couple of minutes of the final bout. In the 60kg, Tadahiro Nomura was behind but turned things around and Japan just edged us," says former double world champion Fabien Canu, now French technical director.

The Japanese ended up with three golds, four silvers and a bronze, while France garnered three golds and three bronze.

"We've come close a few times but the Japanese have remained out in front over the past four years," says Canu.

With no heavyweight titles in the past six years, the Land of the Rising Sun has been worrying that it is about to lose its pre-eminent status in the combat sport. But Canu has some words of comfort.

"It's not so much that they have been slipping, it's just that the others have been catching up. They still have a superb team," said Canu, who thinks that the Paris crowd will held his men and women."

# Ravanelli debuts for Marseille

PARIS (AFP) — Fabrizio Ravanelli, a French record 50 million franc (£5 million) transfer from English club Middlesbrough, will make his debut for Olympique Marseille away to Rennes on Wednesday.

His debut was delayed when he went down with a bout of flu last week."

Nineteen-year-old Joseph-Desire Job, 13 goals in 14 matches for Lyon, must choose which country he wants to play for.

He has been picked for the French Under 21 side to play Switzerland on Sunday but the Cameroon federation has told him they want him for the African Nations Cup in Burkina Faso in February and next summer's World Cup finals in France.

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# Ultra-Orthodox Netanyahu ally calls for dialogue with Hamas

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Arieh Deri, head of the powerful ultra-Orthodox party Shas, called Tuesday for a political dialogue between Israel and Hamas on condition the movement renounces violence.

"We are in favour of a dialogue with Hamas if they will sheath their swords and renounce terrorism," said Mr. Deri, whose party is the second biggest in government after Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu's Likud bloc.

"Dialogue with an enemy like Hamas is more effective than all the wars we can wage against terrorism," Mr. Deri told Israel radio.

He was speaking a day after the spiritual leader of Hamas, Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, returned to his Gaza City home after being released from an Israeli prison in a swap with Jordan for two Israeli secret agents.

The chief rabbi for Israel's Sephardic Jews of Middle Eastern and North African descent, Bakshi Doron, also said Tuesday that he planned to ask Sheikh Yassin to open a dialogue with Israel.

Israel army radio said the message would be transmitted to Sheikh Yassin in coming days by a leading Israeli rabbi, Menachem Fruhman, and Sheikh Nimer Darwish, head of an Islamic organisation of Arab-Israelis.

Sheikh Yassin founded Hamas in 1987 to fight against Israeli occupation.

He was arrested in 1989 and sentenced to life in prison for complicity in the kidnap-murders of two Israeli soldiers by members of Hamas.

Hamas has since carried out most major attacks inside Israel, including the bombings which have killed scores of Israelis.

During his eight years in prison and since his release from prison last week, Sheikh Yassin never renounced armed struggle or the goal of replacing Israel.

But from his Gaza home Tuesday he offered to stop attacks against Israeli civilians if Israel stops "aggressions against Palestinians" such as house demolitions and land confiscations.

"If Israel stops its attacks on Palestinian civilians, we will stop ours against civilians. I am speaking about our martyr attacks, the ones they call suicide attacks," he said.

As part of the deal to obtain the release of two Israeli agents captured last month after trying to assassinate a Hamas leader in Amman, Israel also freed 20 Palestinian prisoners Monday and pledged to release another 40-50 in the coming weeks.

# Israeli media under fire for agreeing to censor spy fiasco

TEL AVIV(AFP) — An Israeli media watchdog accused the local press Tuesday of bowing to pressure from Prime Minister Benyamin Netanyahu and limiting its coverage of a botched attempt by Israeli agents to murder a Palestinian leader in Jordan.

"The news media failed in its mission because it should not have kept silent about this affair as it did for several days," said Chaim Tzadok, president of the Journalists' Commission and a former justice minister.

"News organisations agreed to submit to censorship and pressure from the prime minister" in covering the failed assassination attempt on Sept. 25 against Hamas official Khaled Misha'al and the capture by Jordan of two Mossad assassins involved in the attack, he said.

Mr. Tzadok said Mr. Netanyahu summoned the chief editors of major news organisations last week as information on Israel's role in the attack began to emerge and ordered a blackout on the affair.

"No one got up to protest," Mr. Tzadok said on Israel radio.

He said Israeli newspapers "looked ridiculous, having to quote 'foreign sources' to talk about this affair."

"News organisations must take a close look at themselves because they failed to adequately defend the freedom of the press," he said.

Mr. Tzadok's commission groups 300 journalists and legal experts and is charged with providing recommendations on issues of journalistic ethics and rules.

Israeli army censors prohibited reporting on numerous aspects of Mr. Misha'al's affair, which threatened to cause a rupture in Israeli-Jordanian relations. The censors notably prevented Israeli media from saying Mr. Misha'al's two aggressors, who were carrying falsified Canadian passports, were actually agents of Israel's foreign intelligence service, Mossad.

Mr. Netanyahu for his part lashed out Monday against the Israeli media, who he accused of trying to tarnish his government for ordering the murder of Mr. Misha'al despite the obvious risks to relations with Jordan.

"It's you who need to examine your conscience after all the lies you told," he said at a press conference Monday several hours after the two Mossad agents were freed by Jordan in a deal which also involved Israel releasing Hamas spiritual leader Ahmad Yassin and 20 other Palestinian detainees.

# Iranian newspaper editor missing, may be under arrest

TEHRAN (AFP) — The editor-in-chief of the English-language daily Iran News has been missing for several weeks and may have been arrested, sources at the newspaper said Tuesday.

Morteza Firouzi has not been seen for several weeks but his name has continued to appear on the masthead of Iran News along with his title of editor-in-chief in the paper.

Another Iranian publication, Kayhan Havai, said last week that Mr. Firouzi had been arrested on charges of spying for the United States, a crime punishable by death in Iran.

The weekly also quoted an Iran News official, however, as saying that Mr. Firouzi had gone to Britain to study.

The Iranian authorities have neither confirmed nor denied the report of Mr. Firouzi's arrest.

Other journalists, who asked not to be identified, told Agence France Presse that Mr. Firouzi had been arrested but they did not know the reason for his detention.

On Saturday, Iran News held a reception at a top Tehran hotel for the paper's third anniversary.

A large number of press representatives, members of the diplomatic corps and Iranian officials attended, but Mr. Firouzi was not there and his name was not mentioned in the speeches that were made.

Iran News, which is considered close to the foreign ministry and widely read by Iranian politicians, is one of four English language dailies published in Tehran.

# Rabin said to have refused swap of Yassin with soldier

TEL AVIV (R) — Yitzhak Rabin turned down desperate pleas to swap Sheikh Ahmad Yassin for a kidnapped Israeli soldier in 1994, arguing that the Hamas founder might unseat Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, the soldier's father has said.

The wheelchair-bound Sheikh Yassin returned home to a triumphant welcome in Gaza Monday. The cleric was serving a life sentence in an Israeli jail when he was pardoned last week as part of a swap for two Israeli agents who bungled an assassination bid last month against a Hamas figure in Jordan.

"In 1994, my son was held by Hamas — by murderers who had killed people before this — he was in mortal danger every second, nonetheless [late Prime Minister] Rabin decided not to free Sheikh Yassin under any circumstances," Yehuda Wachsman said late Monday.

Mr. Wachsman's son, Nachshon, was later killed during a shootout between his abductors and Israeli commandos trying to free him at a West Bank hideout.

Mr. Wachsman said Rabin replied to his plea to free Sheikh Yassin by saying he feared that in releasing the Hamas leader Rabin would "be killing the peace process with my own hands.".

"Rabin told me 'if I free Sheikh Yassin and he reaches Gaza, he will constitute a very strong opposition to [Palestinian President] Arafat, he will bolster terror, and it could be that he will defeat Mr. Arafat, and since I chose Arafat as the sole representative of the Palestinian people, I will not create an opposition'," Mr. Wachsman told Israel Radio.

Rabin, who pioneered Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking with a historic 1993 handshake with Mr. Arafat on the White House lawn, was gunned down after a November, 1995, Tel Aviv peace rally by a rightist religious Israeli opposed to the peace process.

BACK HOME SAFE AND SOUND: Space shuttle Atlantis Commander James Wetherbee shakes hands with a NASA official, followed by Pilot Michael Bloomfield, Wendy Lawrence, Vladimir G. Titov of the Russian Space Agency and Scott Parazynski after landing at the Kennedy Space Centre Monday. The landing ended an 11-day mission which took the orbiter to the Russian Mir space station. The crew of seven astronauts includes Michael Foale, who was picked up from the Mir space station (Reuters photo)

# Gilford sets new demand before waiving execution

## Lawyers worried of libel suit after release

RIYADH (AP) — The brother of a slain Australian nurse has set new conditions for waiving his right to seek the execution of a British nurse convicted of the murder, defence lawyers said Tuesday.

Frank Gilford is refusing to surrender his right until his lawyers are guaranteed they will not be held liable to any future claims, said a statement by the Salah Hejailan law firm that represents two British nurses charged with the murder.

It says Mr. Gilford has already signed one document that obliges him to waive the death penalty but is yet to formally submit a mandatory written statement sparing the life of Deborah Parry, 38.

Parry was convicted of murdering Yvonne Gilford, 55, last December. Another British nurse, Lucille McLauchlan, 31, was convicted as an accessory and sentenced to eight years in jail and 500 lashes.

Under Saudi Arabian law the victim's closest relative holds the right to either call for the death penalty or spare the convict's life in return for financial compensation, known as, diya, "blood money."

After insisting on a death penalty for months, Mr. Gilford was reported to have recently agreed to accept $1.2 million, according to Mr. Hejailan. Mr. Gilford himself has refused to confirm or deny such a deal.

A new twist following Mr. Gilford's latest demand that seeks to keep his lawyers — the international law firm in Saudi Arabia and Jones Day Reavis and Pogue of Cleveland, Ohio — free from future liability.

The two companies are concerned that their recent actions may expose them to legal liability "for the harm [they] are said to have caused the two nurses during this terrible ordeal," a statement by Mr. Hejailan said.

It did not elaborate, but apparently referred to Mr. Gilford's insistence of a death sentence, which prolonged the case.

Parry and McLauchlan said in July they plan to sue Jones Day Reavis and Pogue for $200 million "for their ill-motivated and evil scheme to make our ordeal far worse than it would otherwise have been."

Lawyers from the Saudi and U.S. firms were unavailable for comment.

On Monday, a statement from Mr. Hejailan warned that Mr. Gilford risks losing the compensation money, or getting it substantially reduced, if he doesn't submit the death penalty waiver quickly.

The statement said the money, contributed by private companies, has already been deposited in a bank account in Australia. Mr. Gilford is expected to keep $500,000 and donate the rest to children's charity.

Parry and McLauchlan confessed to the killing after their arrests. But they later recanted, saying their confessions were obtained through physical and sexual abuse by their interrogators.

### Fly the red flag, but not upside down please

HONG KONG (R) — Hong Kong police are being taught how to raise the red, golden-starred flag of the enclave's new communist masters to ensure they don't fly it upside down, said a newspaper report. A squad who raised China's five-starred flag last week to mark national day for the first time were specially trained and others would also be trained in flag-raising to make sure they get it right, a police spokesman said. Red-faced officials at a bank had to take down the China flag after local newspapers spotted it was hoisted upside down over the national day holiday.

### Good news, Mrs. O'leary — your cow didn't do it

CHICAGO (R) — A Chicago City council committee had recommended approval of a resolution absolving O'leary and her cow of blame for the fire of 1871 that destroyed most of the city. The resolution, sponsored by Alderman Ed Burke, cited new research pinning the blaze on Daniel "Pegleg" Sullivan, who went to the O'leary barn to feed his mother's cow but probably dropped a match, pipe or lantern in hay or wood shavings. A published report shortly after the fire said the blaze appeared to have started in a barn where Catherine O'leary was milking a cow, which kicked over a lantern.

### 'Candle In The Wind' chases 'White Christmas' for best-selling record

LONDON (AFP) — "Candle in the wind," the Elton John song that the singer rewrote for the funeral last month of Diana, Princess of Wales, has smashed all British sales records for discs in just four weeks. According to the music press, 3.8 million copies have been sold in Britain, and some 26 million across the world. Heading the sales charts in 14 countries, it is now chasing all-time sales record holder "White Christmas," by Bing Crosby, which has sold 30 million copies since it was first issued in 1942.

### Make sure your poultry is happy

MUNICH (AFP) — Happy free-range chickens lay the best eggs, which are richer in vitamins, the German Animal Rights group declared Tuesday. The group, basing its findings on a study conducted by nutritionists at the University of Vienna, said the way a chicken is raised has great influence on the eggs it lays. It condemned the fact that in Germany, nine out of 10 laying birds are raised in chicken coops or batteries, and demanded better labelling of the origin of eggs on the market. "Consumers who buy eggs laid by free-range chickens are not only doing a favour for the chickens but also for their health," the group said.

### Allen has wonderful relationship with daughter

NEW YORK (AFP) — Actor-director Woody Allen said he has a "wonderful" relationship with the 27-year-old adopted daughter of his ex-wife, but maintained he is not ready to wed again. After being spotted near Tiffany's jewellers, Allen denied that he was in search of a wedding ring, saying he and Soon-Yi Previn were "just browsing." But in an interview with the New York Daily News, he left open the possibility that such an event could still take place "someday," since he would love to have another child. Allen, 61, also dismissed rumours that Previn, the adopted daughter of his ex-wife Mia Farrow, is pregnant.

# Islamist says postponing elections is one way of getting out of dilemma

By Francesca Ciriaci
*Jordan Times Staff Reporter*

AMMAN — Postponing the Nov. 4 elections, which would automatically lead to the extension of the 12th parliament, is "one way of getting out of the dilemma" the government is facing, Ishaq Farhan, Secretary General of the Islamic Action Front (IAF), said yesterday.

Dr. Farhan, who first called for a postponement of the polls a few days ago in a column published in an Arabic daily, told the Jordan Times that "the re-enactment of the previous parliament would give various parties the possibility of reaching a civilised solution to the elections law issue."

He said he was "very optimistic that the moderate opinion will prevail" within the ranks of the Muslim Brotherhood and its political arm, the IAF, and they would retract their July boycott decision if offered the chance of using the parliamentary extension period and negotiate with the current or a future government their demands for constitutional reforms and amendments to the elections and press and publications laws.

"The strategy of the Muslim Brotherhood and the IAF is to work for changes in a democratic way, and the only means available [to achieve reforms] is through parliament," Dr. Farhan said.

Should the Muslim Brotherhood refuse any sort of compromise and negotiations even after the postponement of the elections, "there would be no reason for the very existence of the IAF," which was created as the political arm of the Muslim Brotherhood, though administratively and institutionally independent, he added.

Analysts agree that a decision to postpone the elections would be interpreted by the majority of Muslim Brotherhood members and IAF leaders as a sign of enough goodwill from the regime's side to convince them to sit at the negotiation table and even considerably readjust their original demands for constitutional reforms and major changes to the elections and press and publications laws.

According to Hani Hourani, director of Al Urdun Al Jadid research centre, which has for the past seven years been analysing and documenting Jordan's democratisation process, a postponement of the elections would "convince the Islamists that their influence in Parliament and in society is not being minimised, but they are considered, and are, an essential part of political life.

"The political climate would improve, people would go to vote with a real will to participate," Dr. Hourani said, adding that the mere postponement of the elections, "for the sake of pluralism and the continuation of the democratic march," could "change the atmosphere" and it would not be "necessary to change already-existing laws."

The Constitution gives the King power to postpone the general elections "if a force majeure has occurred which the Council of Ministers considers as rendering the holding of the elections impossible."

In addition, art. 73, stipulates in its second paragraph that if elections have not taken place within four months from the dissolution of the Lower House, "the dissolved Chamber shall assume its full constitutional powers and assemble forthwith as if its dissolution had not taken place."

Commenting on the issue, a Brotherhood source, however, said that even in the case of a postponement of the elections, the present, or a future government, will have to negotiate with a less accommodating IAF leadership than this one, with much less chances of a successful dialogue even in case of a postponement of the elections.

According to the IAF statute, the 120-member Shura Council, which convenes in ordinary session every six months, elects every two years the executive committee, which exercises administrative and executive (but not decision-making) functions.

The current executive committee's mandate expires at the end of the year.

Six out of 17 executive committee members resigned this summer, when the Shura Council, the higher decision-making body in Islamist institutions, abided by the Brotherhood's directive, issued in July, to boycott the elections.

Leaders like Dr. Farhan, IAF spokesperson Hamzeh Mansour, Executive Committee Secretary Mohammad Awaideh, and Financial Affairs Secretary Ahmad Tannash later retracted their resignations in what they described in an interview with the Jordan Times as a "sign of respect towards the Shura Council."

Two of the six resignees, former Deputies Bassam Emoush and Abdullah Akaileh, however, have said they have no intention of retracting their resignations.

The recent decision by Dr. Akaileh and a fellow former IAF MP, Mohammad Haj, to seek re-elections in the Nov. 4 polls despite repeated threats of expulsion, made divisions within the Islamists' ranks even more apparent.

"The Shura Council is not happy at all about this group [of leaders'] performance and the [IAF] elections will bring about a different leadership," the source said.

According to him, the upcoming IAF elections are likely to bring about a new group of leaders largely coming from the Muslim Brotherhood's higher cadres and "already working in coordination with other opposition groups for a national reform programme."

He cited the pro-boycott Al Mustaqbal, led by Suleiman Arar, and a group of independents under the leadership of former Prime Ministers Taher Masri and Ahmad Obeidat as the IAF's partners in its future bid for reforms.

"If the old leadership is re-elected, which I do not think, a postponement of the elections would certainly succeed in persuading the IAF to participate, but if a new leadership comes about, chances that the IAF rescinds its boycott decision will be very narrow," the source said.

The representative of another component of the pro-boycott front, Secretary General of the leftist Hashd, Salem Nahhas, did not discard the possibility that a postponement of the elections could result in "more time for dialogue and negotiations" between the government and the opposition, but added firmly that "the postponement of the elections should be followed by real and concrete actions by the government."

Mr. Nahhas, whose Hashd was the first political party to declare the boycott, described a possible postponement of the elections as "a good sign that the regime is serious about dialogue," but said it would not "be enough."

He said a sincere review of political and economic reforms should be launched, "starting from the elections law."